

**INJOY
LIFE
CLUB™**

The Prayers of A Leader

Dr. John Maxwell

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"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day."
Abraham Lincoln

I. A leader's prayer _____ the need for God's assistance in ministry.

A. Prayer admits that I can't do it _____ .

"When we work, we work; when we pray, God works."

B. Prayer acknowledges that God is in _____ .

You may verbalize that He is in charge, but when you make your plans first, and then ask Him to bless them, you are actually declaring you are in charge and hope that God approves of what you do.

C. Prayer recognizes that your church belongs to _____ .

Too often I hear pastors speak of "My church and my ministry." Neither belongs to you; both belong to God. You carry the responsibility of leadership, but it all belongs to God.

This is good news, not a reprimand. God is your partner, and not a silent partner, but an interested and active one!

D. Prayer introduces the _____ to church health and growth.

Church growth facts and figures, formulas and strategies are great, but candidly they are worthless without the supernatural power and anointing of God.

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E. Prayer is the _____ Jesus modeled for communication with God.

Again and again we see modeled, in the New Testament, Jesus slipping away to be with the Father.

II. A leader's prayers create _____ for the blessing of partnership with God.

A. Prayer is the _____ to the spiritual vitality of the Holy Spirit's anointing.

B Prayer helps you act as a _____ to unleash the power of God.

There are two keys to be used as a conduit —

(1) _____ to looking for God.

(2) _____ when the time comes.

C. Prayer cultivates _____ .

When we act on our own, we do small things. When we invite God to participate through prayer, we open ourselves for the miraculous.

D. Prayer brings about _____ .

"Prayer is after all, a very dangerous business. For all the benefits it offers of growing closer to God, it carries with it one great element of risk: the possibility of change. In prayer we open ourselves to the chance that God will do something with us that we had not intended."
Emily Griffin wrote in Clinging

E. Prayer is the avenue for _____ .

A leader knows that he can't lead beyond his or her own ability.

This is also true for raising the level of spiritual maturity for the congregation. You can't take them farther than you have traveled with God.

My prayer requests for qualities of biblical leaders:

I ask God for the . . .

1. _____ of Abraham.

Abraham trusted God to leave everything, even when he didn't know where it would take him.

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.'" **Genesis 12:1-2**

2. _____ of Moses.

"The next day Moses said to the people, 'You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.' ³¹ So Moses went back to the Lord and said, 'Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, please forgive their sin — but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.'" **Exodus 32:30-32**

3. _____ and _____ of Daniel.

"Then they said to the king, 'Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.'" **Daniel 6:13**

"So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!'"

Daniel 6:16

4. _____ of David.

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." **Psalm 51:1-2**

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." **Psalm 51:10**

I ask God for the . . .

5. _____ of Solomon.

"Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"
I Kings 3:7-9

"I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been any one like you, nor will there ever be."

I Kings 3:12

6. _____ and _____ of Job.

Job's oxen and sheep were stolen, servants slaughtered, what wasn't stolen was burned, camels were stolen, more servants slaughtered, children wild parties, wind blew his house down, fell on the young ones and killed them!

"Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.'"
Job 2:3

Then boils from head to foot!
And his wife is ticked! "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die."
Job 2:9

"As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul, ³ as long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, ⁴ my lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will utter no deceit. ⁵ I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity. ⁶ I will maintain my righteousness and never let go of it; my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live."
Job 27:2-6

I ask God for the . . .

7. _____ of Paul.

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.” **Acts 20:24**

8. _____ of Timothy.

“But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.” **Philippians 2:22**

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” **II Timothy 2:2**

9. _____ of Jesus.

“Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. ‘What a huge harvest!’ he said to his disciples. ‘How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!’” **Matthew 9:35-38, The Message**

A Ministry Model

Jesus _____ . Jesus _____

Jesus _____ Jesus _____

The prayer requests of a leader

1. _____

“We look upon prayer as a means of getting things for ourselves; the Bible’s idea of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.” **Oswald Chambers**

In *An Autobiography of Prayers*, Albert E. Day asserts that prayer makes us more "God-conscious" and less "me-conscious."

Prayer is:

- Affirming our desire to realign our lives with the principles and will of God
- Confessing our inability to consistently do that on our own
- Counting our many blessings regardless of appearances or circumstances
- Validating the truth of God's guidance and grace
- Enlisting and unleashing powerful angelic forces to come to our aid
- Giving thanks for the opportunity to serve, and the power to grow personally and spiritually
- "Making the heart large enough until it can contain God's gift of Himself"
Sister Teresa, from A Simple Path

2. _____

"If God has left some things contingent on man's thinking and working why may he not have left some things contingent on man's praying? The testimony of the great souls is a clear affirmative to this: some things never without thinking; some things never without working; some things never without praying! Prayer is one of the three forms of mans' cooperation with God."
*Harry Emerson Fosdick in
The Meaning of Prayer*

3. _____

"It is reasonable to believe that if Christ found it so necessary to pray in order to accomplish His miracles, then others with less experience and ability should find it wise and practical to do the same."
R.C. Allen

"When God saw it necessary, and the church prayed and fasted much, they did miraculous things."
Irenaeus

4. The _____ of what I call _____ .

At Skyline I continually prayed for . . .

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

5. _____

When someone asked Spurgeon the secret of his success, he replied, "My people pray for me."

"Oh, my brethren, you will not do better than to quote Scripture, especially in prayer. There are no prayers so good as those that are full of the Word of God."

Charles H. Spurgeon

"So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ — the Message — have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives — words, actions, whatever — be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way."

Colossians 3:12-17, The Message

Discussion Questions:

1. In this lesson, John gives five specifics on what he prays for as a leader. Take a moment below to personalize those things to your leadership and your ministry:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

- d. _____

- e. _____

2. John highlighted many key biblical leaders and their qualities. In the context of your ministry, which leaders and qualities can you identify with the most and why?



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