

## 10 Different Prayer Strategies I Often Use

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**First, I like to pray John Stott's Morning Trinitarian Prayer** shortly after I rise from bed:

*Good morning Heavenly Father, good morning Lord Jesus, good morning Holy Spirit. Heavenly Father, I worship you: creator and sustainer of the universe. Lord Jesus, I worship you: savior and Lord of the earth. Holy Spirit, I worship you: sanctifier of the people of God. Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, and glory to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever more.*

*Heavenly Father, I pray this day that I will live in your presence and please you more and more. Lord Jesus, I pray that I will take up my cross and follow you, and that your gospel will be the central theme of my day. Holy Spirit, I pray that you will fill me with yourself, and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

*Holy, Blessed, Glorious Trinity. Three persons, one God. Have mercy on me this day, your servant. Amen.*

**Two, PACE** – and yes, I even do the hand motions.

P – Praise

A – Accept and Abide

C – Commit my day to Him

E – Embrace the day

**Three, I often will recite the Lord's Prayer**, pausing to reflect on each line, and applying that specific line to the mood of my heart or the specific situation I am facing in life or ministry. Often when I have no words (Romans 8:26), I simply pray the Lord's Prayer verbatim and ask God to help my heart to truly *want* to pray.

**Four – ACTS – this is a helpful outline for prayer.**

Adoration

Confession of sin

Thanksgiving and gratitude

Supplication – specific prayer requests.

**Five – P, P, P, P**

I probably use this prayer technique more than any other as I think through the various responsibilities and layers of my life.

Personhood – I pray for my own heart.

Partnership – I pray for my wife, Carrie. She is my key partner in life.

Parenting – I pray for my three children and the needs of their life.

Pastoring – I pray for what I “do” vocationally – which is pastoring the church.

Another way to look at this is to pray through the top four priorities of your life: begin with your heart, then pray for your marriage, pray for your kids and grandkids and close friends, and then move toward your vocational work.

**Six, I use Index Cards with Scripture verses I write on the card.** It's a 3x5 card that I jot down whatever verse touched or gripped my heart that morning or that particular season. I write down the verse and refer to it multiple times a day: in traffic, at the office, waiting for an appointment, between phone calls, sitting at home, etc.

For example, on November 19 I wrote down on my card:

*Psalm 19:7, The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise.*

- I then prayed for a new heart and for great wisdom as I attempt to lead FBCW.

*Proverbs 19:7, A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense.*

- I made two circles under the verse with the words: patience and forgiveness. I asked God to give me a patient, forgiving spirit throughout the day.

**Seven, I have a Monday through Friday prayer plan that includes:**

**Mondays** are for my Ministry: I pray for the church, for the staff, for the various initiatives the church is involved in. I go into detail throughout the day just putting before the Lord the things our church is experiencing.

**Tuesdays** are for The Times: I pray for world issues, for political leaders, for the economy, for world crises, for things going on in the news that have touched my heart. I pray God will help me, my family, and my church be on the front lines of fighting the good fight in the world/times in which we live.

**Wednesdays** I pray for my Witness: I usually pray Proverbs 11:30 and Romans 1:16 that God will make me a strong, evangelistic man. That I will be unashamed of the Gospel. I also try to pray by name throughout the day for 3 to 5 people that I am trying to build relationships with to share the gospel with. I pray for their hearts to be softened and receptive to the Gospel.

Thursdays I pray for The Troubled. Anyone I know that is suffering or hurting, I try to call their names out to the Lord. I pray for those facing surgery, divorce, addiction, sorrow, etc. Usually I will keep a list in my head or in my journal of people that have especially requested for me to pray for them as they are in some season of pain and discomfort. Often I pray for them on this day and write them a note and tell them I called their name out to the Lord to encourage them.

Fridays I pray for my Friends and Family. I pray for my children's specific needs, for their future spouses, for their schools, for the teachers, etc. I pray for Carrie and the things we are dreaming for and envisioning in our marriage. I pray for my parents, my brother, my in laws, etc. I also pray for several pastor friends in the ministry and the issues they are dealing with.

I pray on Saturday and Sunday for whatever God puts on my heart.

**Eight, I also try to Consecrate my Commute.** In other words, I try to make the moments I am in my vehicle while traveling a time to listen to the Bible app, to worship and sing along to praise music, or to just pray aloud as God puts things on my heart. Car time is a great time to seek intimacy with the Lord!

**Nine, I often end my devotional time in the morning when I am alone with a song I will sing to the Lord.** I use an old hymnbook, or I will play a worship song through Spotify on my phone. It can be an old song or a new song, but I end by thinking about the words, and yes, often singing it aloud back to God. It's one of my favorite parts of the day. Often, singing is a deeper, more vulnerable form of prayer.

**Ten, last but not least, I will pray with an open Bible.** I literally open my Bible and let the words of the Scripture passage guide my prayers. For example, I may pray Psalm 23:1, "Lord, please shepherd my heart today...please help me to follow you and trust you...please shepherd my family...help us to be content in you..."

Or John 15:5, "Lord, help me remember that you are the vine, and that I am only a branch. I can do nothing without you. No fruit will ever be produced in my life without you. O Lord, I need you today."