

Speaking From the Heart

1. Prayer is between you and God alone

Matthew 6:5-6 (Msg) And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? (6) "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

2. Prayer is all about your access to your Heavenly Father

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NIV) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, (20) by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, (21) and since we have a great priest over the house of God, (22) let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,

John 14:6 (NIV) "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

James 5:16 (NIV) ...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Leviticus 19:2 (NIV) ...'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

Hebrews 10:10 (NIV) we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

3. Prayer is in partnership with the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 2:18 (NIV) For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Psalms 66:18 (NLT) If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Romans 8:26-27 (NLT) the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. (27) And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

Colossians 4:2 (Liv) Don't be weary in prayer; keep at it; watch for God's answers, and remember to be thankful when they come.