

**PRAY LIKE THIS: Part 1**  
**Pastor Dennis Rouse**  
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**John 15:1-8 NKJ**

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."*

**Key Things Jesus Says:**

1. Anything you accomplish outside of God has no eternal value.
2. Everything you do with God bears fruit.
3. Your prayer life determines how much God works with you.

*"When we work, we work. When we pray, God works."*

**Obstacles to Overcome:**

1. Wrong priorities

*"You will never change anything in your life until you change something in the routine of your life."*

2. Laziness

**Proverbs 20:13 NLT**

*If you love sleep, you will end in poverty. Keep your eyes open, and there will be plenty to eat!*

**Proverbs 24:33-34 NLT**

*A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.*

3. Not having faith that your prayers work

**James 1:6-8 NLT**

*But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.*

4. Not knowing how to pray

**James 4:2-3 NLT**

*You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. **YET YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU WANT BECAUSE YOU DON'T ASK GOD FOR IT.** And even when you ask, you don't get it because **YOUR MOTIVES ARE ALL WRONG—YOU WANT ONLY WHAT WILL GIVE YOU PLEASURE.***

**Starting Points of Prayer:**

1. The potential of prayer is connected to your faith.

Faith begins where the will of God is known!

**Mark 11:22-24 NKJ**

*So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed*

*and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

### **1 John 5:14-15 NIV**

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

2. The power of prayer is rooted in a righteous consciousness.

### **1 John 1:8-9 NIV**

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

### **James 5:16 NLT**

*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a RIGHTEOUS PERSON has great power and produces wonderful results.*

3. The process of prayer is found in the Lord's prayer.

### **Matthew 6:5-8 NKJ**

*“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to the Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

### **Matthew 6:9-13 NKJ**

*In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

### **Seven Themes of Personal Prayer:**

1. Establishing His presence – Worship
2. Expanding His kingdom
3. Submitting to His will
4. Praying in His blessing
5. Creating a clean heart
6. Preparing for the battle
7. Establishing His authority