

Prayer

Brad Strong, September 2022

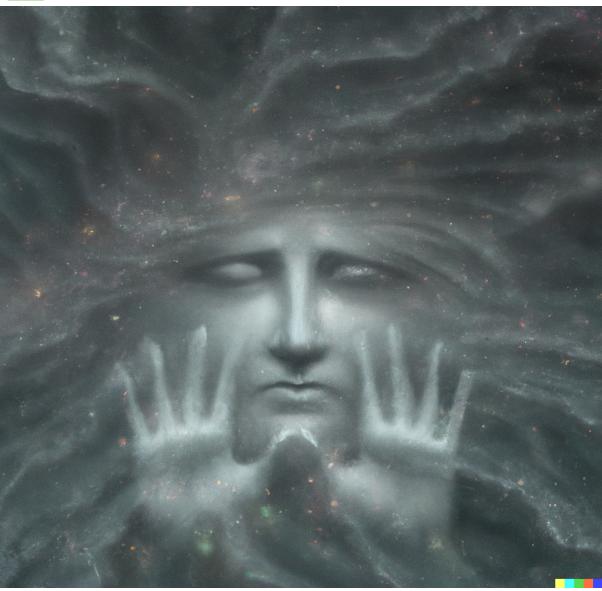
Prayer is the most important thing you can do, and to make prayer a priority in your life

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Prayer is...

- Fellowship with ...
- A dialogue, not a ...
- Our ability to understand and work with the ...
- A ...
- Prayer is to our spiritual life what ... is to our physical life



Why Should We Pray?

- Prayer is the method God has created and endorsed to ...
- Prayer is one way that we can ask for God's help to overcome
- Prayer is the means by which we can ...

...

4 What could keep God from hearing our prayers?



- Regarding ...
- Unconfessed or current ...
- Turning away from hearing
 - •••
- If we don't ask or ...
- If we ask in ...
- Unforgiveness
- If there is family ...

5 In other words, Prayer goes best with a <u>Holy Lifestyle</u>



- Which also means we need to be ...
- But ...
- Confess, repent, and pray to God for ...

6 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you...

- ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (John 15:7)
- First -
- Second –
- Question -

Jesus, our example, wrestled in Prayer...

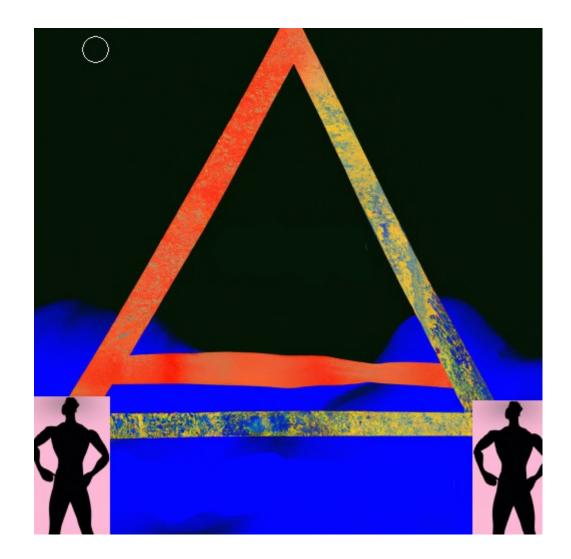
⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. (Hebrews 5:7)

8 Praying through Scriptures – the OiOi Prayer



- O **Open** my eyes that I may see wonderful things from Your Law
- i Give me insight so I can do what you tell me
- O Make my life on long **<u>Obedient</u>** response to You
- i Give me **intimacy** as I draw near to You

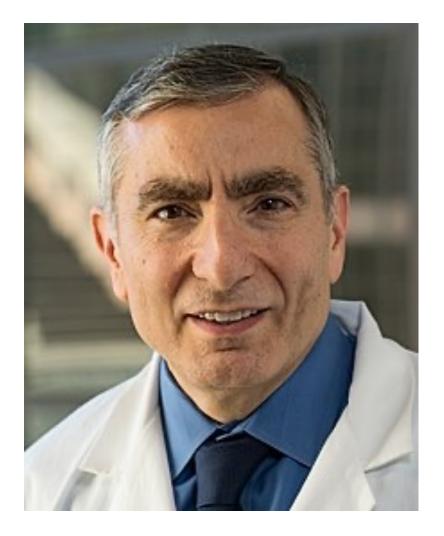
Prayer is a triangle that overcomes ...



- When we pray to God the Father, we can affect anyone on the earth, because ...
- That's kind of exciting! .

10 Prayer should be Clear and Specific

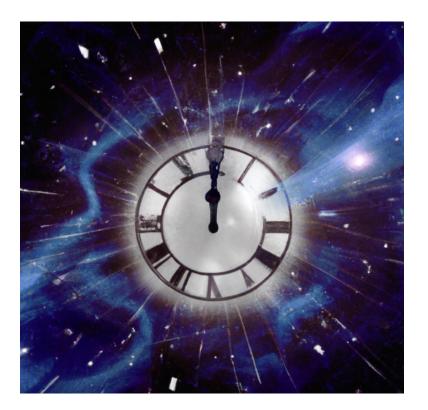
- James Tour is a renowned chemist at Rice University, who has ...
- He says his achievements were possible because he ...



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Pray Without Ceasing / In All Things

- When you wake, ...
- Before, after you ...
- Before, after you ...
- When you are ...
- As you work, ask for ...
- When you have ...
- When you see or meet someone who ...
- When you have ...

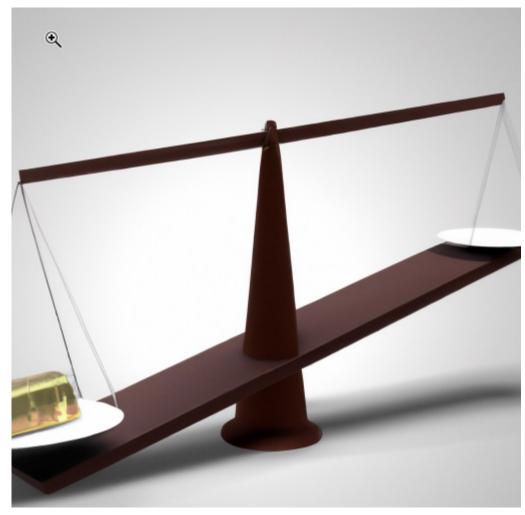


<u>12</u> There are rewards for praying in secret



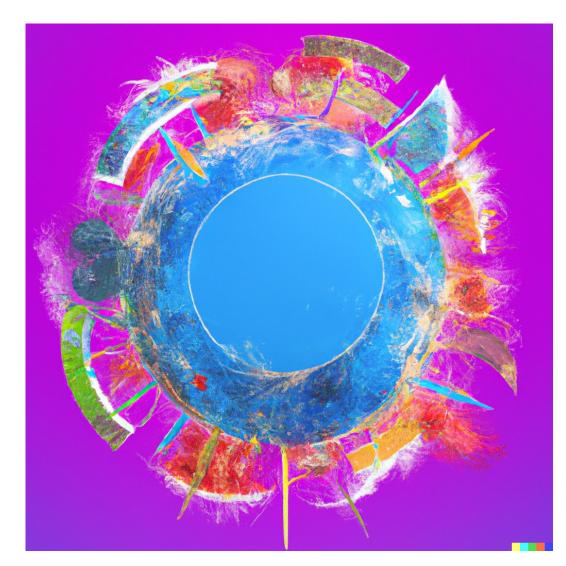
- There are also rewards for ...
- Acting on rewards from God is an act of faith not many ...
- Prayer is a component part of ...

13 God's Rewards May Be Key To Our Victory



- God gave us scriptures about rewards for good behaviors ...
- Let's not work against His purposes by ignoring ...
- God's many rewards may be part of the dynamic that helps us overcome ...

14 What should we pray about?



- Everything ...
- What would you tell ...
- Confessing ...
- Asking God for help ...
- Help avoiding ...
- Praying in ...
- Praying for good ...

The Lord's Prayer Template

- 1. Our Father in Heaven –
- 2. Hallowed be Your Name –
- 3. Your Kingdom Come –
- 4. Your Will Be Done on Earth as Heaven –
- 5. Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread -
- 6. Forgive our Debts as we have forgiven debtors -
- 7. Bring us not into temptation but deliver us from evil –
- 8. Yours is the Kingdom, Power and Glory –
- 9. Forever and ever –

Dick Eastman's hour of prayer

Each section gets 5 minutes



- 1. Praise and worship
- 2. Waiting on the Lord
- **3. Confession of guilt and sin**
- 4. Praying scripture
- 5. Watching
- 6. Intercession
- 7. Petitions
- 8. Thanksgiving
- 9. Song
- **10.Contemplation / Meditation**
- 11.Listening

12.Praise

<u>17</u> Intercessory Prayer Suggestions



1. For unbelievers in your circle ... 2. For a national ... 3. For unity of the ... 4. For families to be ... 5. For racial ... 6. For life to be ... 7. For local and ...

Listening to God can happen via...



- an audible word
- scripture
- a dream
- a sense of static
- confirmation
- Quiet yourself down, Focus on Jesus, God's voice sounds like spontaneous thoughts that light upon your mind, Write down the flow of thoughts and pictures within you – Mark Virkler.

19 The Well of Flesh and the Well of Spirit



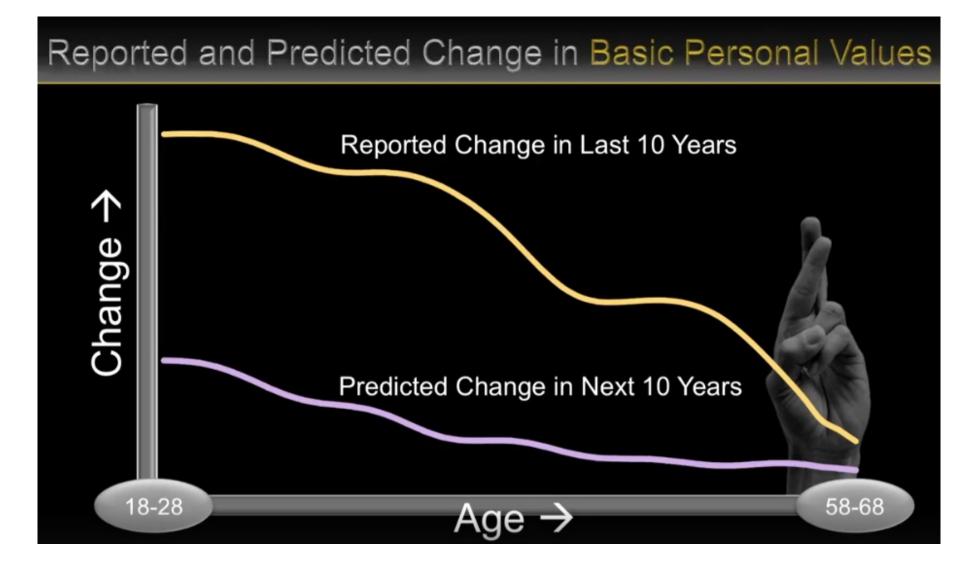


We CAN Change, Even Us Old People

- We have an illusion that we won't change anymore, it's called The End of History Illusion.
- In psychological studies, people vastly underestimate how much they will change.
- Even personality changes more in a decade than people think it does.
- We think the 'present' is when we have finally become ourselves, but the reality is, we're constantly changing.

From a Ted talk 'The Psychology of your Future Self' by Dan Gilbert, 2014

21 How much will you change in the next 10 years?



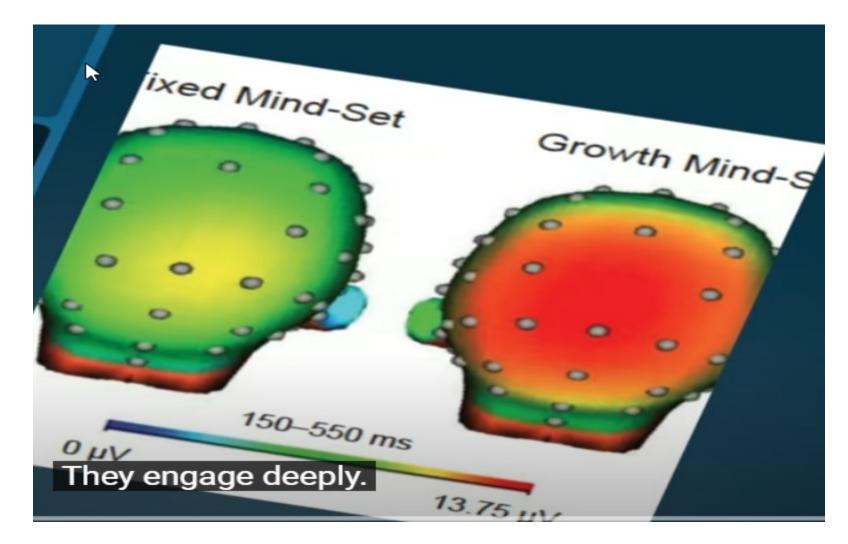


Three Suggestions for Change

- 1. Distinguish your former, current and future selves.
- Imagine your desired future self you need a clear, desired outcome, belief you can change, and a path to get there (Smart Goals, for example). *Prospection* means to be drawn forward by your own view of the future.
- 3. Tell others how you will change is powerful because it makes you want to make your behavior consistent with your new story.

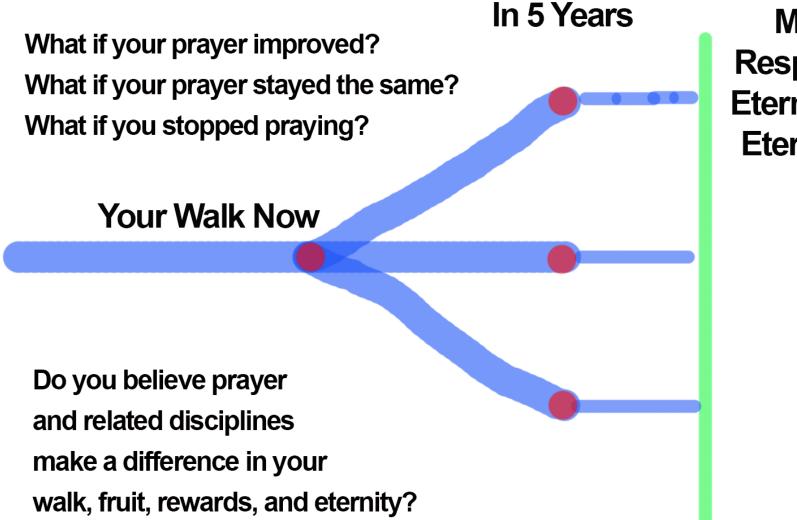
Fixed Mind-Set vs Growth Mind-Set

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From Ted Talk 'The Power of Believing You Can Improve' by Dr. Carol Dweck, 2014

24 The Prayer 'Fork in the Road' Exercise



Millennium Responsibilities, Eternal Rewards, Eternal Impacts