MAKE YOUR LIFE A PRAYER

Prayer is the sacred rhythm of relationship—turning our hearts toward God in every season, emotion, and circumstance. It is breath and conversation, listening and speaking, resting and responding. These verses and quotes invite us into the compassionate presence of our God who hears, understands, and delights in us. As we linger in prayer, we discover that ***every moment can be a prayer***—a continual communion with the God who loves us beyond measure.

MORNING: THE EXPECTANT HEART

First-thing-in-the-morning prayer focuses us on God's presence.

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. (Psalm 5:3)

Oh, go to God! Prayer delights God's ear; it melts his heart; it opens his hand. God cannot deny a praying soul. (Thomas Watson)

A SACRED DIALOGUE: LISTENING & THIRSTING

Prayer is a two-way conversation and a soul-deep longing.

Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with our thirst. God thirsts that we may thirst for him. (St. Augustine)

Prayer is not a monologue but a dialogue; God's voice in response to mine in its most essential part. Listening to God's voice is the secret of the assurance that He will listen to mine. (Andrew Murray)

Call to me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3)

IN THE TRENCHES: PRAYER IN WEAKNESS & DISTRESS

When words fail, and the heart is heavy.

In my distress, I called to my God for help. (Psalm 18:6)

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Romans 8:26)

Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused. (Charles H. Spurgeon)

Prayer breaks my heart, but it also propels me to use the grief, the tears, the brokenness to draw me into God's love, where I sense His pleasure. (Pamela Piquette)

TENDER PERSISTENCE: GENTLY RETURNING TO HIM

Focusing our wandering minds requires God's grace.
If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back to the point quite gently and replace it tenderly in its Master's presence. And even if you did nothing during the whole of your hour but bring your heart back... your hour would be very well employed. (St. Francis de Sales)

Lord, teach me what I cannot see. (Job 34:32)

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. (1 Chronicles 16:11)

THE WEIGHT OF A WHISPER: SIMPLE & SINCERE

Honor the power of short, honest prayers.

One single grateful thought towards heaven is the most perfect prayer. (Gotthold Ephraim Lessing)

True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length. (Charles Spurgeon)

ABIDING JOY: THE SWEETNESS OF COMMUNION

Prayer is a delightful way of life.

There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God ... (Brother Lawrence)

Prayer is nothing more than spending a long time alone with the one I know loves me. (Teresa of Avila)

Prayer is not given us as a burden to be borne or an irksome duty to fulfill, but to be a joy and power to which there is no limit.
(The Kneeling Christian)

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

A LIFE LIVED IN HIS PRESENCE

Prayer is not a performance to be perfected, but a relationship to be kindled. Whether our prayer is a joyful shout, a quiet "Thank You," or a groan too deep for words, it is precious to the Father. He is not looking for the length of our oration, but the leaning of our soul. It is a continual, sweet conversation with our God who loves us beyond measure—and that is the most beautiful worship of all.