

What Some People Have Said about Prayer

Quotations compiled by Bishop Margaret G. Payne, October 2008
Year 2: Called to Listen, Called to Live

"Prayer is not a rare thing to be searched for. It is the activity of life, the atmosphere that sustains life. God meets us in the noise, the hurry, the crowd."

"Prayer does not necessarily require one's undivided attention." *Laurence A. Wagley*

"Prayer is not an argument with God to persuade him to move things our way, but an exercise by which we are enabled by his spirit to move ourselves his way."

Leonard Ravenhill

"When the outlook is bad, try the uplook." *Mark Twain*

"Your cravings as a human animal do not become a prayer just because it is God whom you ask to attend to them." *Dag Hammarskjold*

"The result of prayer is to find reasons for loving God." *Isaac of Syria*

"Prayer is wasting time with God." *Marjorie Thompson*

"The one concern of the Devil is to keep Christians from praying."

Samuel Chadwick

"Prayer is God's way of getting you to meet the cast of characters you call your distractions. God knows we spend a lot of time disowning them and pretending we don't know them. They are family. Prayer will always be messy because they are."

Newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

"Work done gratefully and well is prayer." *Wendell Berry*

"Prayer is ... the soul in paraphrase, the heart in pilgrimage." *George Herbert*

"Plenty well, no pray; big bellyache, heap God."

Native American wisdom saying

"Your influence for Christ will depend, beyond all your knowing and beyond anyone else's knowing, on your having one foot set on the ladder of prayer."

Ronald A. Knox