

Learning to Pray

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LEARNING TO PRAY By K.P. Yohannan *"The potency of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire; it hath bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled the demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings."* ~Chrysostom Table of Contents [Free Resources](#) [Introduction](#) 1. [A Secret Foundation](#) 2. [What Is Prayer?](#) 3. [Foundations in Prayer](#) 4. [Prayer in Action](#) 5. [Now Begin Concluding Remarks](#) [About the Author](#) [Excerpt from Revolution in World Missions](#) [About Gospel for Asia Notes](#) [Copyright](#)

Step into the world of FREE! gfa.org/resource/signup Find exciting resources by K.P. Yohannan to help you grow spiritually. Ebooks, videos, mp3s and photos—all free for download. Introduction How often have you heard someone say, "I will pray for you" or ask, "Please pray for me"? Of the thousands of letters I receive, a significant number of them always have some kind of prayer request included. The need for prayer is felt in all aspects of our lives. Whether it has to do with our families, children, education, daily needs, ministry, relatives, friends or the many other concerns that can fill our days, the necessity of prayer is always present. But despite that, the question remains: Do we honestly take time to pray? If we do pray, how much time do we really spend in prayer? We may spend hours each day talking to friends and family members about the things in our lives, but do we even spend at least one hour with the Lord in prayer, talking with Him? I believe our lack of prayer is because so few of us truly know how to pray. I know that in the early days of my Christian life, I had no clue what prayer really was. I would close my eyes, and in a few short minutes, I would run out of things to say. It wasn't until learning from older brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as from books on prayer, especially those of E.M. Bounds, that I began to grow in my prayer life. May this booklet serve to give you the beginning steps for building your life on the solid foundation of prayer. And may the Lord use this to help you come near to Him and be a child again, simply talking to your Father. He is waiting for you.

CHAPTER ONE A Secret Foundation A few years ago, I heard the story of one missionary serving with our organization who, in a short time, had planted five churches in a difficult part of Northeast India. Curious of how this young brother did it, I called one of our senior leaders and asked him if he could tell me more about this brother's ministry. All that I knew was that he was from a tribal background and didn't have any college education, yet regardless, it seemed that God was with him in a remarkable way. The first church he planted began with the healing of a Hindu priest who was paralyzed. Then, one after another, four more churches were born. I was more than curious to find out this brother's secret. Our senior leader said he would check into it and let me know what he found out. When he called to tell me, he said, "There is nothing unusual about him. I found nothing special except for one thing—he gets up very early each morning and spends two or three hours in prayer and then an hour or two reading the Bible. This habit began while he was studying in one of our Bible colleges." Let me give another example. One morning I was talking to a senior leader in our work on the mission field. He was traveling throughout North

India to meet with many of our leaders and appoint new workers to projects that had recently been started. In our conversation we were discussing who might be able to take a certain new position. I asked him, "What do you think about this particular brother? He seems to be a really godly man. Why don't we think about putting him in that position?" We talked back and forth about this brother's abilities, his lack of experience and the seriousness of the challenge in this new area of work. But finally we both agreed to trust him with the particular job. There was something about him that caused us to make that decision: He spends nearly four hours in prayer each day. Our decision was not based on the fact that he had started a dozen churches or that he was able to oversee a large region of the country quite well. Our decision was based on the fact that God was with him and that he knew how to pray. You see, prayer is God's method of carrying out His purposes upon this earth. There is a mystery to the truth that God waits to hear and answer the prayers of His people. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38? "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. *Therefore pray* the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (emphasis added). There are many people all throughout Christian history who knew the power of prayer. John Hyde was one of them. In the late 1800s, he left his home in Illinois to serve the Lord as a missionary to the people of India. There he labored, not just physically but, more important, in prayer. He was known to stay up late into the night praying, as well as rising very early each morning, crying out to God, "Give me souls, O God, or I die!" He was so gripped with passion for the lost, and he knew that the strongholds the enemy had upon the people could only be broken through prayer. And so pray he did. In fact, he prayed so much that the position of his heart shifted in his chest, later causing the complications that led to his death. But because of his prayers, in 1904 the northwestern states of India where he had labored for years experienced one of the greatest revivals the nation has ever known! Just like Praying Hyde, we too can learn to pray and see God accomplish great things through our prayers. But we must learn. We could read every book ever written on prayer, but that won't make us people of prayer. We learn to pray by doing it. In *The Last Days Newsletter*, Leonard Ravenhill tells about a group of tourists who were visiting a picturesque village. As they walked by an old man sitting beside a fence, one tourist, in a rather patronizing way, turned to the old man and asked, "Were any great men born in this village?" The old man simply turned and replied, "Nope, only babies."

Prayer moves heaven and earth! *˃˃˃ Do you not believe that?*

Consider Elijah, whose prayers halted rain for more than three years. Or the believers of the early Church, whose prayers released the chains that bound Peter in prison. No special formulas were used to yield these results. These were just simple men and women like you and me, praying to an awesome God. God still hears and does the impossible through the prayers of His people!

In this book, K.P. Yohannan will show you how significant of a role your prayers play on this earth, and you will learn the first steps of praying consistently and effectively. Start reading (and praying) today!

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