

## Difficult Prayer

*Seek the LORD and His strength, seek His face continually.*—1 Chronicles 16:11

I will be honest and say I desire to see an improvement in my prayers. I need to have a relationship with my Savior where I desire to spend more quality time with Him.

Elizabeth Elliot said, “Prayer is the hardest work I do.” Why is prayer so difficult? We know we need to spend time in communion with Christ. We need to adore Him, share our thoughts and needs, and intercede for others. It sounds simple. So, what happens?

Satan realizes how important our time with the Lord is and he is right there to interrupt. I know if I plan to spend an extended time before bed praying, I am so tired that I cannot focus. If I plan to do during the day, there is interruption after interruption. If I get up early, I find my thoughts slipping into planning for the day. It takes work to set aside a time and stick with it.

Often we make excuses and feel we just need to get something done first. Perhaps we think, “Well God has everything in control so I really don’t need to tell Him what I need.” We may not pray because of unconfessed sin. We may even be discouraged because we don’t see answers to our prayers.

God expects us to pray. It is not just about having our prayers answered, it is about fellowship. It is a time that we open our thoughts and seek His will and His strength. It is a time of worship when we exalt our Savior and express our love for Him. As we are in His presence we search our actions and our motives. We examine our lives to confess sin. It is a very precious time with our loving Savior.

*The LORD is near to all them that call upon Him, to all that call on Him in truth.*

—*Psalm 145:18.*