

Faith-filled Prayer

In 2021, the QB Movement is focusing on “faith-filled prayer.” Over the year we will roll out lots of resources and prayer opportunities, but because faith-filled prayer needs to begin with leaders, we want to encourage every church pastor/leader to read at least one book on prayer this year.

To assist you in choosing a book that is appropriate for you, we have provided information on six books on prayer written by prominent authors/speakers in the last decade. All of these books are in print (and many are in eBook form as well). We’ve risked choosing a wide range of authors. Some are more expository and others are more motivational. Think about what would be most helpful for you at the moment. Choose prayerfully and wisely and get started as soon as possible.

Your brother,
John

Tim Keller, Prayer: Experiencing awe and intimacy with God (2014)

Blurb

Prayer is central to Christian faith; it is the main way we experience deep change. Yet so many people struggle with prayer – a struggle that the author himself has shared. This wise and inspiring book is the fruit of those struggles, offering a real and glorious vision of what it can mean to seek God in prayer.

Keller begins by giving a theological underpinning of what prayer actually is – both conversation and encounter with a personal God – before describing how we can learn to pray, and then deepen that prayer. Finally, he gives detailed, practical suggestions on how to make prayer a part of the reality of daily life.

John’s Comment

This book is typical of Keller’s writings – biblical, comprehensive, challenging, insightful and gospel-centred. It’s not a light read, but it’s perceptive, enlightening and helpful. And oh so biblical.

Craig Groeschel, Dangerous Prayers: Because following Jesus was never meant to be safe (2020)

Blurb

Prayer moves the heart of God, but some prayers move him more than others. He wants more for us than a tepid faith and half-hearted routines at the dinner table. He’s called you to a life of courage, not comfort.

This book will show you how to pray the prayers that search your soul, break your habits, and send you to pursue the calling God has for you. You’ll be challenged. You’ll be tested. You’ll be moved to take a long, hard look at your heart. But you’ll be inspired to pray boldly. To pray powerfully. To pray with fire. You’ll see how you can trade ineffective prayers and lukewarm faith for raw, daring prayers that will push you to new levels of passion and fulfillment. You’ll discover the secret to overcome fears of loss, rejection, failure, and the unknown and welcome the blessings God has for you on the other side. You’ll gain the courage it takes to pray dangerous prayers.

John's Comment

Groeschel's three dangerous prayers are: 1. Search me. 2. Break me. 3. Send me. This book is an easy read with lots of stories, but it calls for a risky prayer life that may well lead to personal spiritual revival.

John Eldredge, *Moving Mountains: Praying with passion, confidence, and authority* (2016)

Blurb

If you are interested in prayer at all, you want prayer that works. When we discover that prayer is not just asking God to do something – prayer is partnership with God – new possibilities open before us. We are God's sons and daughters, given the authority of Jesus Christ; we have a greater role in prayer than we ever thought. Greater power too.

This is an immensely practical book. Tender, loving, but also frank and instructive, this is a book that can teach you the ways of powerful prayer. There is nothing more hopeful than the thought that things will be different, and we have some role in bringing that change about. With God we can move mountains.

John's Comment

Eldredge doesn't attempt to cover the whole gambit of biblical prayer but focuses on the "your kingdom come" aspects of prayer. He provides lots of helpful instruction on how to align with God in our prayers to see the mountains move.

D.A. Carson, *Praying with Paul: A call to spiritual reformation* (2014 – 2nd ed)

Blurb

God doesn't demand hectic church programs and frenetic schedules; he only wants his people to know him more intimately. The apostle Paul found that spiritual closeness in his own fellowship with the Father. By following Paul's example, we can do the same. This book calls believers to reject superficiality and revolutionize their lives by embracing a God-guided approach to prayer.

John's Comment

Carson mingles "a little bit of practical advice on praying with prolonged meditations on some of Paul's prayers... so that we can align our prayer habits with his." Filled with insightful exegesis and theological reflection, this book helpfully guides us on how to pray like Paul.

Steven Furtick, *Sun Stand Still: What happens when you dare to ask God for the impossible* (2010)

Blurb

Furtick: This book is not a Snuggie. The words on these pages will not go down like Ambien (sleeping pill). I'm not writing to calm or coddle you. With God's help, I intend to incite a riot in your mind. Trip your breakers and turn out the lights in your favourite hiding places of insecurity and fear. Then flip the switch back on so that God's truth can illuminate the divine destiny that may have been lying dormant inside you for years. In short, I'm out to activate your audacious faith. To inspire you to ask

God for the impossible. And in the process, to reconnect you with your God-sized purpose and potential.

John's Comment

Writing in contemporary idiom with lots of entertaining and heart-grabbing stories, Furtick argues that an omnipotent (he probably wouldn't use that traditional term) God calls for audacious faith and prayerful boldness. I don't always completely agree with Furtick, but he has a point. The book may just inspire you.

Max Lucado, Before Amen: The power of a simple prayer (2014)

Blurb

Wouldn't we like to pray ... More? Better? Stronger? With more fire, faith, and fervency? We aren't the first to struggle with prayer. The first followers of Jesus needed prayer guidance too. In fact, prayer is the only tutorial they ever requested. Jesus gave them a prayer. Not a lecture on prayer. Not the doctrine of prayer. He gave them a quotable, repeatable, portable prayer. Couldn't we use the same?

Join Max Lucado on a journey to the very heart of biblical prayer and the power unleashed with six simple lines: 1. Father. 2. You are good. 3. I need help. 4. They need help. 5. Thank you. 6. In Jesus' name, amen.

John's Comment

Lucado is an encourager. Written in his creative, conversational style, this book makes prayer attractive and inviting. You won't find a lot of detailed exegesis in the 100 pages, but if you want to grow in your love for God and prayer, this book should help.