

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GROW UP?

40 Days of Prayer – Rick Warren
Parts 1-3

“We are not meant to remain as children at the mercy of every chance wind of teaching . . . Instead we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love, and TO GROW UP IN EVERY WAY INTO CHRIST.” Ephesians 4:14 (PHILLIPS)

SIX LAWS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. WE GROW WHEN WE _____

Jesus: “People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every Word of God.” Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

Paul: “The Word of grace is able to build you up and give you all the blessings that God has for his people.” Acts 20:32

Hear . . . Read . . . Study . . . Memorize . . . Meditate . . . Apply

ACTION STEP: _____

2. WE GROW WHEN WE _____

“In many different ways John preached the good news to the people.”
Luke 3:18 (CEV)

- By Listening (Auditory)
- By Watching/Reading (Visual)
- By Talking (Verbal/Oral)
- By Doing it (Physical/Kinesthetic)

“God speaks in different ways, and we don’t always recognize his voice.”
Job 33:14 (CEV)

3. WE GROW WHEN WE _____

“Now that you know these things, you’ll be blessed if you practice them!”
John 13:17

“Solid food is for mature people, whose minds have been TRAINED BY PRACTICE to know the difference between good and evil.” Hebrews 5:14 (GW)

“All good athletes train hard and practice to get better. They do it to win a prize that won’t last. But we practice to win a prize that will last forever!”

1 Corinthians 9:25

- Habit of weekly *large group* worship
- Habit of *small group* fellowship
- Habit of a daily time *alone* with God (Bible & Prayer)
- Habit of memorizing God’s Word

4. WE GROW WHEN WE _____

“I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.” Romans 1:12 (NCV)

“Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the HABIT of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more.” Hebrews 10:24-25 (GNT)

ACTION STEP: _____

5. WE GROW WHEN WE _____

Jesus said, “According to your faith will it be done to you.” Matthew 9:29 (NIV)

6. WE GROW WHEN WE _____

God: “You’ll find me when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else.” Jeremiah 29:13 (The Message)

ACTION STEP: _____

Nehemiah: “In view of all this, we are MAKING A COVENANT TOGETHER in writing, and all of us are signing our names to it.” Nehemiah 9:38

“Our greatest wish and prayer is that you will become mature Christians.”
2 Corinthians 13:9 (TLB)

Next Step

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A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO PRAYER

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Parts 1-2

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of the disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" Luke 11:1 (NIV)

OUR FRUSTRATIONS WITH PRAYER ARE CAUSED BY:

- not a magic wand
- not a fire extinguisher
- not a tug of war
- not a ritual to relieve guilt

4 FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS ABOUT PRAYER

1. _____
"The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who reverence him." Psalm 103:13 (NLT)

"We can be confident in approaching God, knowing that he listens to us whenever we ask him for anything according to his will. And since we know that he hears us when we make our requests, then we can be sure that he will answer us."
1 John 5:14-15

PRAYER IS: _____

"I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future. Then you will call my name. You will come to me and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NCV)

2. _____
"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they've received their reward in full. Instead, when you pray, go into your room, close the

door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep babbling on and on like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)

"Let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith."

Hebrews 10:22 (GNT)

3. _____
"Call to me and I will answer you. I will show you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own." Jeremiah 33:3 (The Message)

"If you, being imperfect and sinful parents know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him?" Matthew 7:11 (NLT)

"You do not have, because you do not ask God." James 4:2 (NIV)

4. _____
"The Lord waits for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion." Isaiah 30:18 (NLT)

"I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love! I don't want your offerings, I want you to know me!" Hosea 6:6 (TLB)

"Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him. With them He shares the secrets of his covenant." Psalm 25:14 (NLT)

"Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you." James 4:8 (NLT)

THE CLOSER I AM TO GOD

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WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TALKING TO?

40 Days of Prayer – Rick Warren
Parts 1-3

Your understanding of what God is really like shapes everything else
in your life, including how you pray.

“THE LORD IS ALWAYS GOOD. He is always loving and kind, and his faithfulness goes on and on to each succeeding generation.”
Psalm 100:5 (TLB)

BECAUSE GOD IS ALWAYS GOOD . . .

1. _____
“I know what I’ve planned for you,” says the Lord. “I have GOOD plans for you, not plans to hurt you! My plans will give you HOPE and a GOOD future. And when you call to me and pray to me, I will listen to you!” Jeremiah 29:11 (NCV)

“We know that God causes everything to work together for THE GOOD of those who love God and are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 (NLT)

Joseph: *“Your plan was to hurt me, but God turned your evil plan into a GOOD plan to save the lives of many people!”* Genesis 50:20

“So, we can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are GOOD for us—they help us learn patient endurance.” Romans 5:3 (NLT)

2. _____
“He has not treated us as we deserve for our sins or paid us back for our wrongs . . . (In his goodness), he has taken our sins away and removed them as far as the east is from the west!” Psalm 103:10,12

“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close . . . my enemies are waiting for me to fall . . . Yet I remain confident that I’ll see the GOODNESS of the Lord while I’m living here in the world.” Psalm 27:10-13 (NLT)

“(Jesus) understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly with confidence to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find the grace to help us when we need it.” Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT)

3. _____
“I am the GOOD shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me . . . And I will sacrifice my life for my sheep.” John 10:14-15

“Jesus died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, filling us with God’s GOODNESS.” Romans 4:25 (TLB)

“Since God did not spare even his own Son but gave Christ up for us all, won’t he now also give us everything else we need?” Romans 8:32 (NLT)

4. _____
“You fathers—if your children asked for a fish to eat, would you give them a snake instead? Or if they asked for an egg, would you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you, as sinful people, know how to give GOOD gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”
Luke 11:11-13 (NLT)

Jesus replied, *“You don’t realize what you are asking for!”* Matthew 20:22 (NLT)

God says, *“My thoughts are completely different from yours, and my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”* Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

5. _____
“Our Lord Jesus Christ, and God our Father who loves us, has given us by his grace an everlasting encouragement and a GOOD HOPE that will last forever. May this encourage your heart and give you strength for every GOOD THING you do and say!” 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, then I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!” Psalm 23:6 (NIV)

PRAY THIS WEEK

“Lord, keep me from paying attention to what is worthless. (Instead) let me live by your Word . . . I want to obey your principles. Please RENEW my life with your GOODNESS!” Psalm 119:37,39-40

Revive My Heart . . . My Small Group . . . Our Church Family

“Bring us back to you, God; we’re ready to come back. Give us a fresh start.”
Lamentations 5:21 (The Message)

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PRAYING IN FIVE DIMENSIONS

40 Days of Prayer – Rick Warren
Parts 1-3

1. _____

• **WE SEE IT** _____

“Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen (in) what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:20 (NIV)

“Can you fathom the limits and bounds of the greatness and power of God? The sky is no limit for God, but it lies beyond your reach! God knows the world of the dead, but you do not know it. God’s greatness is broader than the earth, and wider than the sea.” Job 11:7-9 (GNT)

• **WE SEE IT** _____

“The Word became a human being and lived among us! We saw his glory . . . and he was full of grace and truth!” John 1:14 (NCV)

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

“Grace & peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come.” Revelation 1:4 (NIV)

• **WE SEE IT** _____

“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where the wind comes from or where it’s going. That’s the way it is with everyone born of the Holy Spirit.” John 3:8 (GW)

“He does wonders that cannot be understood; he does so many miracles they cannot be counted. When he passes me, I can’t see him; and when he goes by me, I don’t recognize him!” Job 9:10-11 (NCV)

2. BECAUSE GOD IS MULTIDIMENSIONAL _____

“Where could I go to escape from you? Where could I ever get away from your presence? If I went up to heaven, you’d be there; if I lay down in the world of the dead, you’d be there. If I flew way beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west, you’d be there to lead me. You’d be there to help me. I could ask the darkness to hide me...but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are the same to you.” Psalm 139:7-12 (GNT)

HOW TO PRAY IN FIVE DIMENSIONS AS I PRAY . . .

1. **I LOOK** _____
“God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life . . . He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.” 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT)

THE CROSS REMINDS ME

- How deeply God loves me
- How costly evil & sin is
- How completely I’m forgiven

2. **I LOOK** _____
“You should not act like cowering, fearful slaves, since God’s Spirit has adopted you as children into God’s Family! Instead, BY HIS SPIRIT WE SIMPLY CRY OUT ABBA! FATHER! and God’s Spirit affirms that we really are his children! And since we are now God’s child, we’re also heirs with Christ, and will share in both his suffering and his glory!” Romans 8:15-17

GOD WANTS MY PRAYERS TO BE

- **Abba! Daddy!** _____
- **Cry Out!** _____
- **By His Spirit** _____

3. **I LOOK** _____
“Examine yourself to see if your faith is real and growing. Test yourself. Remember that Jesus is living in you—unless you’ve failed your test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“Jesus, produce the Fruit of your Spirit in me today!”

4. **I LOOK** _____
“Give yourself completely to God—every part of you—since you’ve been given a new life, and you want to be used as a tool in the hands of God, used for his good purposes.” Romans 6:13 (TLB)

5. **I LOOK** _____
“I am confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until it is finished on the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6

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HOW TO PRAY THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY

40 Days of Prayer – Rick Warren
Parts 1-4

“Pray in the Spirit AT ALL TIMES with ALL KINDS OF PRAYERS, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. And always pray for all God's people.” Ephesians 6:18 (NCV)

BY DEVELOPING 2 HABITS

1. _____
“Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads.” Ephesians 6:18 (GNT)

“Never stop praying! (Pray all the time!)” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (GW)

2. _____
“Seven times a day I praise you!” Psalm 119:164 (NIV)

A DAILY SCHEDULE BUILT ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

1. _____ (THANKSGIVING)
Jesus said, “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. So then, this is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven.’” Matthew 6:8-9

“Every good gift and every perfect present comes from your Father of light in heaven.” James 1:17

- I THANK MY FATHER IN HEAVEN FOR HIS CONSISTENT LOVE & I RECALL ALL _____

2. _____ (PRAISE)
“Hallowed be your name.” Matthew 6:9

“Every day I will bless your name, and praise it forever and ever!” Psalm 145:2

- I REVIEW GOD'S NAMES & _____

	GOD SAYS “I AM . . .”
Abba	Your Loving Father!
Ei Deah	Your God Who Knows Everything!
Jehovah Rapha	Your God who Heals you!
Ei Shaddai	God Almighty – with all the Power you need!

“Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never abandoned those who truly seek you.” Psalm 9:10

3. _____ (DEDICATION)
“May your kingdom come, and may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10

- I ALIGN MYSELF WITH GOD'S _____ FOR MY LIFE
“If you seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, all the other things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

4. _____ (PETITION)
“Give us today our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11

- I ASK FOR _____ I NEED
Jesus: “You can ask for anything in my name.” John 14:13 (NLT)

- I ASK FOR WHAT _____ (INTERCESSION)
“I'd be sinning against the Lord if I failed to pray for you.” 1 Samuel 12:23

“Jesus has the power of God, by which he gives us everything we need to live, and to serve God. We have these things because we know him.”
2 Peter 1:3 (NCV)

5. _____ (CONFESSION)
“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.” Matthew 6:12

- I ADMIT MY SINS AND I _____
“I confessed my sins to you and didn't try to hide them . . . Then you forgave me and now all my guilt is gone!” Psalm 32:5

6. _____ (PROTECTION)
“And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.” Matthew 6:13
1 Corinthians 10:13

7. _____ (BENEDICTION)
“For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever! Amen!”
Matthew 6:13 (NASB1995)

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HOW TO PRAY FOR HEALING AND RESTORATION

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Parts 1-3

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, THEN I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins, and I will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT)

4 CONDITIONS

1. _____
"If my people WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES." 2 Chronicles 7:14

HUMILITY:

- IF I'M HUMBLE, _____
"God leads the humble in the right way and teaches them his will."
Psalm 25:9 (GNT)
- IF I'M HUMBLE, _____
"I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts." Isaiah 66:2 (NLT)
- IF I'M HUMBLE, _____
"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6
- IF I'M HUMBLE, _____
Jesus: *"Take the yoke I give you...and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble, and I will restore deep rest to your soul."* Matthew 11:29

2. _____
"If my people . . . WILL PRAY." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Jesus: *"I tell you the truth, my Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you'll receive, so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy."* John 16:23-24 (NCV)

"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven." James 5:13-15 (NIV)

"Pray in the Spirit at ALL times with ALL kinds of prayers, asking for ALL you need. To do this you must ALWAYS be ready and never give up! ALWAYS pray for ALL God's people." Ephesians 6:18 (NCV)

3. _____
"If my people . . . WILL SEEK MY FACE." 2 Chronicles 7:14

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me." Proverbs 8:17

"God rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

"If you seek the Lord your God, you will find him IF you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. For He is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you." Deuteronomy 4:29-31 (NIV)

"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

4. _____
"If my people . . . TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS." 2 Chronicles 7:14

"If you hide your sins, you will not succeed. But if you confess and reject them, you will receive mercy." Proverbs 28:13 (NCV)

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16 (NIV)

3 PROMISES:

1. I WILL _____

2. I WILL _____

3. I WILL _____

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WHEN GOD SAYS “NO”

40 Days of Prayer – Rick Warren
Parts 1-3

“Call to me and I will answer you.” Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

3 OF THE MANY REASONS GOD SAYS ‘NO’

CAUTION: Use these to comfort yourself, but *NEVER* use them with someone in pain, because you don’t know why God said no to them.

1. GOD SAYS ‘NO’ WHEN HE HAS _____
“He knows about everyone everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from him.”
Hebrews 4:13 (TLB)

“(God) guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.”
Proverbs 2:8 (NIV)

2. GOD SAYS ‘NO’ WHEN HE HAS _____
God: “This plan of mine is not what you would work out, neither are my thoughts the same as yours! For My ways are higher than yours.” Isaiah 55:8-9 (TLB)

“These were commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned SOMETHING BETTER.” Hebrews 11:39-40 (NIV)

GOD HAS ALL OF ETERNITY _____

3. GOD SAYS ‘NO’ WHEN HE HAS _____
“I cry out to God Most High, who fulfills his purpose for me.” Psalm 57:2 (NIV)

“The purpose of these troubles is to test your faith as fire tests how genuine gold is. Your faith is more precious than gold.” 1 Peter 1:7 (GW)

“These present troubles are quite small and won’t last very long. Yet they will produce in us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever! So, we don’t look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

“There are some things the Lord our God has kept secret, but there are some things he has let us know.” Deuteronomy 29:29 (NCV)

“Just as you’ll never understand how the mystery of life forms in a pregnant woman, so you’ll never understand the mystery at work in all that God does.”
Ecclesiastes 11:5 (The Message)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN GOD SAYS ‘NO’?

1. TRUST _____
“All the ways of the Lord are loving.” Psalm 25:10 (NIV)

“In everything God works for the good of those who love him.” Romans 8:28 (ICB)

I DON’T HAVE TO _____ TO KNOW THAT IT IS MOTIVATED BY LOVE.

2. WHEN IN PAIN, PRAY _____
“Going a little farther, Jesus fell to the ground praying that, if possible, he might not have to suffer what was ahead of him. Jesus prayed ‘Abba! My Father! All things are possible for you! Please take this cup of suffering away from me! Yet I want your will, not mine, to be done!’” Mark 14:35-36

THE RIGHT WAY TO PRAY

- _____
“Father, I know you can do anything!”
- _____
“Father, please give me what I ask!”
- _____
“However, what I want most is your will!”

3. EXPECT _____
(Paul) “Three times I prayed to the Lord about this and asked him to take it away. But his answer was: ‘My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.’ So, I gladly boast about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power can flow through me! . . . For when I am weak, then I am strong!” 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

“Those who know you, Lord, will trust you! You do not abandon anyone who comes to you!” Psalm 9:10 (GNT)

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