

PRAYER IDEAS

Levita Scott was a senior member of our church. When I started my ministry program she was one of my mentors. I enjoyed and learned so much from her over the years.

Many years ago, we had a discussion about prayer. About a week later, she wrote me a five page letter on her thoughts of prayer. It starts by describing how people talk about problems when they meet on the street, grocery store, or in the doctor's office. Too often people would say, "there is nothing we can do, or someone should do something about the problem. But believers can always do something: we can pray."

She went on to suggest that we need to make our prayers more visible, more than just words, which can help us be more faithful. Levita gave me seven examples of improving prayer with great detail:

1. Establish a regular place to pray
2. Keep a prayer list
3. Make your monthly calendar into a call to prayers
4. Prayer Map #1 of your neighborhood
5. Prayer Map #2 of the world
6. Pray the "news"
7. Make prayer more than "just words" by combining it with an action
 - a. prayer walking through the neighborhood
 - b. prayer shawl ministry
 - c. find an activity that helps you focus your attention on God;

Colossians 3:17 tells us to do all that we do as "unto the Lord."

1 John 5:14-15—This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we ask of him.

1 Timothy 4: 11-16: Verses 11 thru 14 states

"Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you."

"NOW AND THEN" I am a real worrywart.

At times I've made myself miserable worrying about things out of my control.

God, why is it so hard for me to cast my burdens upon you?

Scripture tells me to give you my worries, but I keep taking them back as if I can't trust you.

Who am I to doubt the Creator's ability to deal with my doubts and fears?

When I am prone to worry, Lord, help me to be more trusting.

In the mid-19th century, tightrope walker Blondin walk across Niagara Falls on a thin wire holding 180 pounds of sand. When he returned, he asked for a volunteer to do it with him. Finally his manager agreed. Blondin told his manager, "You must not trust your own feelings, but mine. You will feel like turning when you don't need to turn. IF you trust your feelings, we will both fall. You must become part of me. They made it safely across. Who do you trust?"

