

Top 40 Hymns to Pray

Adapted from: Discipleship Journal -January/February 2005

Praise and Thanks

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (Robinson)
"Fill Thou My Life, O Lord My God, in Every Part
with Praise" (Bonar)

"For the Beauty of the Earth" (Pierpoint)

"God of My Life, through All My Days" (Doddridge)

"Holy, Holy, Holy" (Heber)

"Immortal, Invisible" (Smith)

"My Maker and My King, to Thee My All I Owe" (Steele)

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (Wafts)

"O Lord, I Will Delight in Thee and on Thy Care Depend" (Ryland)

"Thanks to God for My Redeemer" (Storm)

Confession and Repentance

"Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat" (Newton) "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" (Whiftier) "Just as I Am" (Elliot)

"No, Not Despairingly, Come I to Thee" (Bonar)
"O Thou That Hearest When Sinners Cry" (Wafts)
"O Thou to Whose All-Searching Sight" (Zinzendorf)

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (Toplady)

"Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart Today" (Orr)

"Weary of Wandering from My God" (Wesley)
"With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh" (Elven)

Consecration and Service

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (Hatch)

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (Pollard)

"I Am Thine, O Lord, I Have Heard Thy Voice" (Crosby)

"I Need Thee Every Hour" (Hawks)

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee (Clairvaux; Caswall, tr.)

"My Jesus, I Love Thee, I Know Thou Art Mine" (Featherston)

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" (Matheson)

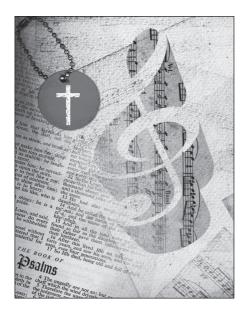
"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" (Gladden)

"The Quiet Hour" (Grimes)

"Take My Life and Let It Be" (Havergal)

Petition and Intercession

"Abide with Me" (Lyte) *"Be Thou My Vision"* (Byrne/Hull)



"Father, I Know That All My Life Is Portioned Out for Me" (Waring)

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (Williams)

"Higher Ground" (Oatman)

"Holy Father, in Thy Mercy, Hear Our Anxious Prayer" (Stephenson)

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" (Wesley)

"Jesus, My Strength, My Hope" (Wesley)

"Lord, Speak to Me" (Havergal)

"May the Mind of Christ, My Savior" (Wilkinson)

Hymns can not only be sung but also spoken. A hymn book can be used as a prayer diary. Praying the hymnal takes no practice and very little preparation. Anyone can do it. It helps to express deep longings that may be on the heart.

Choose hymns that speak directly to God.

Not all hymns are prayers. Some teach, some testify, and some inspire. Hymns that could aid your prayer life such as "Have Thine Own Way," "Take My Life and Let It Be" are just two that need no revision to aid your prayer life or expressions of worship.

Speak the Hymn rather than sing it.

It may be easier to verbalize, speaking aloud can breathe new life into words of a hymn, such as Breathe on me, breath of God, Fill me with life anew, That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.

Hymns can become so familiar that we sing them as routine, without making too much connection with what the words really mean. Not knowing the melody could, at times be of benefit in that they can be used to aid your prayer life by reading them audibly.

Personalizing a Hymn

Make a Hymn "your own" while also laying claim to its promises. Changing "thee" and "thine" to "you" and "your" or singular "my" and "me". Praying a hymn this way lets you express the deep yearnings of your heart in ways that perhaps you have never experienced. As an example, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" by Isaac Watts may be revised as follows:

O God, my help in ages past, My hope for years to come, You are my shelter from the stormy blast, And my eternal home.

Meditate on specific lines or words

Praying a hymn can be just the beginning, words that have been penned by poets to express emotions and sentiments of the heart can speak volumes for us when we have difficulty in voicing our own petitions.

'Mid all the traffic of the ways, Turmoils without, within

Words by John Oxenhaum/ are both soothing and calming, especially if days have been hurried and harried while opening the door to someone who will take away the confusion and Make in my heart a quiet place, And come and dwell therein.