

PRAYER

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*, The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1999

This book is a reader friendly collection of Nouwen's prayer ideas, quotes and short stories as recorded by a student of prayer and personal friend. It's a wonderful resource for daily inspiration and focus as one begins the journey toward serious prayer. "*To pray...means to think and live in the presence of God.*" Nouwen, *Clowning in Rome*, 1979

Steere Douglas, *Dimensions of Prayer*, Upper Room, revised edition, 1997

This classic book, written many years ago by a famous Quaker author is an easy read. It contains wisdom for both those beginning to explore prayer, and those very seasoned. Steere offers explanations of what the Bible says about prayer, as well as practical tips on developing devotional habits.

Foster, Richard J., *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, Harper San Francisco, 1992

This text examines prayer in terms of three movements: inward (transformation), upward (intimacy), and outward (ministry). Seven chapters are given to illustrating each movement, approaches to guide the reader toward a deeper understanding of God, oneself, and the world.

Thompson, Marjorie J., *Soul Feast*, Westminster John Knox Press, 1995

"There are few books in which a solid biblical vision and a practical, hands-on approach are so well integrated. When you have read and lived this book, you have been in touch with the best that Christian spirituality has to offer." -from the foreword by Henri J. M. Nouwen

FOR WOMEN

Richardson, Jan L., *Sacred Journeys: A Woman's Book of Daily Prayer*, Upper Room Books

Following the liturgical year, Richardson has written five theme-sections. Each week includes an invocation. Biblical text and its context, daily readings, reflection questions, a meditation and a blessing.

FOR CHILDREN

Wood, Douglas, *Grandad's Prayers of the Earth*, Candlewick Press

A young man recalls walks in the woods with his grandfather, particularly his grandad's eloquent teachings about the many qualities of prayer by observing creation.

FOR CHURCHES

Vander Griend, Alvin J. with Edith Bajema, *The Praying Church Sourcebook*, CRC Publications, 2nd edition 1997

This is a collection of essays, strategies, and stories for praying churches. The book examines biblical principles and teachings on prayer, points up dozens of ways for vitalizing prayer in church life, and relates stories that encourage readers to be faithful in prayer. The book details 33 prayer strategies, among them support groups, senior intercessions, prayer retreats and prayer walks. It includes pointers for teaching children to pray and for engaging families in prayer.

Kamstra, Douglas A., *The Praying Church Idea Book*, CRC Publications, 2001

The book says that of all the activities to which the church is called, prayer heads the list. An appropriate response, the writer declares, is not to add programs or prayer services, but to build a praying church. Toward that end, Kamstra advances 40 prayer formats and 50 ideas on worship. He also addresses the prayer life of the leader, identifies types of prayer ministries, encourages harvest prayers, and offers pointers on small groups and prayer retreats. While asserting that "only God can build a praying church," Kamstra outlines steps by which the church can partner with God in that task.