

**“The Beauty of the Soul That Prays”
By Ren R. Royal**

It is not the beauty in the prayer that counts,
But the beauty of the soul that prays,
The soul that prays in vast amounts,
Equals the sum of faith all of her days.

It is not the eloquence that stirs the soul,
But the beauty of the soul that prays,
While God’s holy light shines its radiant glow,
Faith shall remain throughout her days.

It is not the prayer’s length,
But the contents it presents,
That in God’s perfect strength,
From temptation, it prevents.

It is not the position in which to pray,
But the beauty of the soul that prays,
Knelt or standing, each word she may say,
Her love to God her heart portrays.

The soul that seeks God,
Shall light up in radiant beauty,
For living faith it shall provoke,
In fervent prayer and duty.

Praise shall inhabit the core of the soul,
A reflection of God’s love,
For all to see it’s radiant glow,
And see God’s face above.

The soul that breathes God’s love,
Lives in constant prayer,
That all the earth and heavens above,
In all creation share.

Humble is the soul that kneels,
In reverence to God alone,
That in God’s presence reveals,
The glory of God’s throne.

The soul that remains in fervent prayer,
Thy tender mercy fills,
Embraced in God’s tender care,

God's holy plan fulfills.

The soul that only through God she seeks,
Her peace, her faith, her love,
In steadfast faith her soul that speaks,
That lives for God above.

Oh Blessed be the soul that prays,
Forever she shall live,
Her faith that lives in all her days,
To God her praise to give!

There is such beauty in a soul that prays. The relationship we have with God depends on our prayer life. The stronger we are in prayer, the stronger our faith becomes. Faith and prayer go hand in hand. Prayer nurtures the soul because it our soul talking to God. Some people think prayer must be done in a certain fashion or position. Prayer is conversation with God, whether alone, or in groups. God hears our every prayer whether we are standing or on our knees. God hears our prayers whether we are in church or whether we are at home. God hears and sees us wherever we are. Whether we whisper the prayer or we say it aloud in front of the church, God hears our prayers. Prayers can be simple or elegant, short or long, silent or out loud. The most important guideline is that we pray. Don't let these wrong ideals keep you from praying.

In this world of full agendas and deadlines – where does our prayer life stand? Is it on hold? Is it on our schedule?

How strong is your prayer life? Do you only pray at Church on Sunday? How often do you pray? The Bible tells us to devote ourselves to prayer.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2, NRSV)

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” (Romans 12:12, NRSV)

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6, NRSV)

“The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer.” (Psalm 6:9, NRSV)
Stillness or Flight

“but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”
(Isaiah 40:31, NRSV)

“Stillness or Flight”
By Ren R. Royal

In the stillness I feel the peacefulness of the night,
With faith I soar like an eagle in flight,
Perhaps it is the stillness that keeps my flight in motion,
Perhaps it is the flight that gives me calmness in commotion.

In the stillness my soul takes time to pray,
In the hurried frenzy of flight throughout the day,
In the flight I hurry along life's travels,
While, in the stillness, my destiny unravels.

In the stillness of the storm, I find God's peace,
In the midst of bustle that never seems to cease,
In the midst of hurry, I learn to go slow,
So in the stillness of prayer, I can let God's love flow.

In the stillness I hear God's voice whispering,
Through the love of others my soul is listening,
Through the gentle wind that guides my flight,
To new horizons I am led by God's loving light.

In the stillness I see God's Loving Light,
That I may fly in faith, and not by sight,
In the stillness I hear God's Word ever living,
For in my soul lives God's grace ever giving.

Perhaps it is the stillness that keeps my flight going,
Perhaps it is the flight that keeps my stillness glowing,
Perhaps it is the combination that keeps my faith true,
That in the stillness, or flight, my eyes are fixed on You.

In the stillness my soul is filled with love and praise,
As God leads my journey all of my days,
That, in the stillness, or flight, to my journey unknown,
Until I reach God's Heavenly Throne!

“Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.” (Psalm 32:6, NRSV)

In today's active lifestyle people hardly seem to slow down. There are too many demands: children to feed, houses to clean, work to be done, grocery shopping, chores, etc. – at times we want to throw up our hands and scream. Do life's demands weigh you down? We are always on the go. We are always in flight and at times we cannot seem to slow down and enjoy the stillness. How can we learn to pause at times and enjoy the stillness?

In life's hectic chaos, do we find time to pray? Do we allow our souls to be still and listen to God? Do we enjoy both the stillness and flight in our lives, or do we just participate in one and ignore the other? We need both to be complete.

“The Conversation of Prayer”
By Ren R. Royal

Prayer is the conversation that speaks from my soul,
The cost is free, there is no toll,
Prayer is the union that connects God and I,
When I lose that connection, then I lose I.

God always answers the call when I call upon Him,
No matter why, or where, or what, or when,
I know God listens day or night,
When I forget to pray, then I lose sight.

Prayer is the essence and core of life's existence,
When I lose faith, it's because of prayer's resistance,
God knows my every need, God hears my every call,
God's love raises me and God's grace lifts my every fall.

Prayer is the key to faith and faith is the key the prayer,
They both co-exist in a life of faith to share,
Prayer is the combination that opens up my heart,
Where Christ is ever living, with Love that shall never part.

Prayer is the solution to everything I do,
There I find the wisdom in everything I pursue,
Because I know God was, God is, and God shall be,
Thus, in prayer I find God, and in God I find Eternity.

Do we call on God? He always takes our call. Do we seek solutions through prayer? Do we take all things to God in prayer? Do we make time to call upon God?

Many of us believe prayer has to be fancy or we have to pray a certain way. God hears us whether we are on our knees, standing up, or sitting down. God hears our every prayer.

We don't have to find excuses not to pray. Just as you talk to your spouse, friend, or family member, talk to God! Give it a try.

“Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” (Matthew 21:22, NRSV)

“While we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” (Acts 6:4, NRSV)

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