

# Session 5: Lessons from George Mueller's Prayer Life

Six Men and Their Prayer Lives – Monday Night Bible Study 2025  
Michael Garreau



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## I. Synopsis of Mueller's Life



## II. Why should we listen to George Mueller?

- A. *He kept \_\_\_\_\_ central to his life and teaching.*
- B. *He felt the \_\_\_\_\_ of work, family, finances, & health.*
- C. *God was pleased to \_\_\_\_\_ Mueller's prayers.*

## III. George Mueller's Teaching on Prayer

- A. *Prayer should be made at \_\_\_\_\_ times.*

1. "Therefore, as opportunity and time allow, let us give ourselves to prayer. It is most important to have stated times for prayer, and not to leave it to certain impressions. If we leave it to feelings, you will find that you will be less and less inclined to prayer, and soon will be altogether without it; or, in other words, a miserable sinner, without help in the conflict. Have certain times for secret closet prayer, when by ourselves we pour out our souls before God" (Counsel to Converts).

- B. *Prayer properly flows from \_\_\_\_\_ on God's Word.*

1. "I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the word of God, and to meditation on it. . . . What is the food of the inner man? Not *prayer*, but *the word of God*; and . . . not the simple reading of the word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts" (Narrative 1:272-273).

2. "Now, prayer, in order to be continued for any length of time in any other than a formal manner, requires, generally speaking, a measure of strength or godly desire, and the season, therefore, when this exercise of the soul can be most effectually performed is after the inner man has been nourished by meditation on

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the word of God, where we find our Father speaking to us, to encourage us, to comfort us, to instruct us, to humble us, to reprove us" (Narrative 209).

### C. ***Prayer is made strong by the practice of "holy \_\_\_\_\_."***

1. George Mueller would write reasons why God should intervene and would pray these "arguments" when circumstances became difficult. "This method of holy argument, ordering our cause before God, as an advocate would plead before a judge, is not only almost a lost art, but to many it actually seems almost puerile [childish]" (Pierson 148).

a) Towards the beginning of his orphanage ministry, Mueller wrote this in his journal: "Sept. 1, 1838. The Lord in His wisdom and love has not yet sent help. Whence it is to come, need not be my care. But I believe God will, in due time, send help. His hour is not yet come. ... This is the most trying hour that as yet I have had in the work, as it regards means; but I know that I shall yet praise the Lord for His help. I have mentioned my arguments before Him, and my gracious Lord, "the Father of the fatherless," will send help. (Narrative Part 2)

b) 1. That I set about the work for the glory of God, i e. that there might be a visible proof, by God supplying, in answer to prayer only, the necessities of the Orphans, that He is the living God, and most willing, even in our day, to answer prayer; and that, therefore, He would be pleased to send supplies.

c) 2. That God is the "Father of the fatherless," and that He, therefore, as their Father, would be pleased to provide. Psalm lxxviii. 5.

d) 3. That I have received the children in the name of Jesus, and that, therefore, He, in these children, has been received, and is fed, and is clothed; and that, therefore, He would be pleased to consider this. Mark ix. 36, 37.

e) 5. That many enemies would laugh, were the Lord to withhold supplies, and say, did we not foretell that this enthusiasm would come to nothing?

f) 7. That the Lord would remember that I am His child, and that He would graciously pity me, and remember that I cannot provide for these children, and that therefore He would not allow this burden to lie upon me long without sending help.

### D. ***Prayer ought to be made concerning \_\_\_\_\_ things, whether big or small because prayer is the universal \_\_\_\_\_ in every difficulty.***

1. "So I would say to you, my beloved friends, there is nothing too small for prayer. In the simplest things connected with our daily life and walk, we should give ourselves to prayer; and we shall have the living, loving Lord Jesus to help us. Even in the most trifling matters I give myself to prayer, and often in the

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morning, even ere I leave my room, I have two or three answers to prayer in this way" (Counsel to Converts).

2. "Never begin anything without going to God about it in prayer! Never take any step without first of all settling the matter between yourselves and God, and the result will be you will not speak to Him in vain. He loves you. 'He shall direct thy paths'" (Sermon, Trust in the Lord).

3. **Mueller was fond of referring to prayer as the "\_\_\_\_\_ remedy."**

a) "It is a rare thing that a day comes without some difficulty or some want; but often there are many difficulties and many wants to be met and overcome the same day. All these are met by prayer and faith, our universal remedy, and we have never been confounded" (Narrative).

b) "...for fifty-five years I have been walking in this way, and I desire on this very ground to encourage my beloved brethren and sisters in Christ who have not tried this universal remedy, and they will find, as I have, that it suits every difficulty and trial" (Hints on Prayer).

### **E. Prayer should be made \_\_\_\_\_ in faith until the answer is received.**

1. "Now this is what we have to do; not simply to mention our request before God, but to go on asking again and again, with earnest prayer and supplication, until we receive. Just ask as a beggar would do; and will not our heavenly Father give it to us, seeing that He hath bestowed His greatest gift, even His Son upon us" (Counsel to Converts).

2. "It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly continue in prayer until we obtain an answer; and, further, we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end, but we have also to believe that God does hear us, and will answer our prayers. Most frequently we fail in not continuing in prayer until the blessing is obtained, and in not expecting the blessing. As assuredly as in any individual these various points are found united together, so assuredly will answers be granted to his requests" (Narrative 1:405).

3. In an interview towards the close of his life, Mueller revealed one of the secrets of his prayer life, "I have been praying every day for fifty-two years for two men, sons of a friend of my youth. They are not converted yet, but they will be! How can it be otherwise?" (Steer, Delighted in God, 267)

### **F. Recording answers to prayer will increase our \_\_\_\_\_ for God and encourage us to \_\_\_\_\_ him for more.**

1. "I would particularly advise all, but especially the younger believers, to use a little memorandum book, in which they may note down on the one side the requests which they bring before God."

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2. "Very few of God's dear children are aware how much this marking of the hand of God, with regard to answers to prayer, has to do with increased love to their heavenly Father. We are so apt to leave unnoticed the hand of God, and to pass over what God has been pleased to do in answer to our prayer."
3. "The more careful you are in marking what you ask, and what God has given, the more distinctly you will be able to trace how again and again it pleased God to answer your prayers; and more, you will be drawn out to God in love and gratitude. You will find precisely as the Psalmist found it when he says, "I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications."
4. "Another effect of all this on the Psalmist we find in the second verse, "Because He hath inclined His ear unto me, therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live." The more evidence we have of His power, and of His willingness to help us, the more our hearts should be determined to call upon the Lord."  
(Counsel to Converts).

### G. ***A life of prayerful dependence on God is for \_\_\_\_\_.***

1. **One of Mueller's great concerns, particularly later in life, was that fellow believers began thinking that he had a "\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_" not available to all and thus not everyone could or needed to trust God the way Mueller did.**
  - a) Think not, dear reader, that I have *the gift of faith*, that is, that gift of which we read in 1 Cor. xii. 9, and which is mentioned along with "the gifts of healing," "the working of miracles," "prophecy," and that on that account I am able to trust in the Lord. ...It is the self-same faith which is found in *every believer*, and the growth of which I am most sensible of to myself; for by little and little it has been increasing for the last six and twenty years. (Narrative 1:231)
  - b) "Especially, I affectionately warn them against being led away by the device of Satan, to think that these things are peculiar to me, and cannot be enjoyed by all the children of God; for though, as has been stated before, every believer is not called upon to establish orphan houses, charity schools, etc., and trust in the Lord for means, yet all believers are called upon, in the simple confidence of faith, to cast all their burdens upon him, to trust in him for everything, and not only to make everything a subject of prayer, but to expect answers to their petitions which they have asked according to his will and in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Narrative)