

PRAYER STYLE

By Karen Braun

Our unique God-given personality, experiences and spiritual gifting influence us to pray and operate in ways that differ from person to person. We could call this our prayer style. God uses our prayer styles to accomplish His purposes. Each one of us has an important prayer job to fulfill. God needs all our different styles so that everything on His heart can be covered by prayer. It is not a mistake that we operate differently.

A variety of prayer styles introduce diversity into the body of Christ. When that diversity is honored in prayers of agreement (prayers in one accord and harmony with each other) our prayers are powerful and effective.

Some “pray-ers” find value in using tools to assist their style: notebooks, journals, calendars, photos, maps, globes, walks, tissues, hymn books, worship music, newspapers, magazines, current events, formats, lists and so on.

Exercising your prayer style is a key to your breakthrough.

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (John 15:7-8, NIV).



WHAT’S YOUR PRAYER STYLE?

“There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us” (1 Corinthians 12:6, NLT).

Whatever your prayer style, exercise it in agreement with others. On the next page is a list* of various prayer styles.

Crisis pray-er: You are always “on call” to pray for emergencies of any kind.

Issue pray-er: You get upset by the news in the media. You may not be able to do much physically about disasters, scandals, or government decisions, but you pray.

List pray-er: You love to pray from a list for missionaries, sick people, unsaved friends, whoever and whatever. If they ask you to pray, they’re added to your list, and you’re on it.

Mercy pray-er: You feel what other people are feeling. At times you feel the heart of God. This helps you to pray in a way that brings God’s mercy to situations.

Nations/City pray-er: You enjoy praying over an area, region or map. You may even be fascinated by the way God moves in other cultures or locations. This motivates you to pray and even coordinate groups for cities or countries around the world.

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Evangelism pray-er: You care deeply about people who haven't accepted Jesus Christ. You pray and pray and pray until unsaved people give their hearts to Christ.

Prophetic pray-er: You listen to God as much as you speak to Him. God gives you information that helps you (and others) to pray "on target." These prayers always line up with God's Word. At times He has you "act out" the prayer.

Special Assignment pray-er: You are like a spiritual "bodyguard" or "shield" for individuals as God puts them on your heart. It may be a president or a pastor, leader, neighbor, or someone at a school. It might even be someone you don't know, like someone in the news. At times God asks you to submit for their discretion how He led you to pray for them.

Warfare pray-er: You understand that the devil is out to kill, steal, and destroy. You like to uncover his evil plans. Then, through prayer, you stop him in his tracks!

Worship pray-er: You bring God's presence of joy, comfort, and hope to situations when you sing, write, or creatively express your prayers.

Administrative pray-er: You love to organize or coordinate others to pray. You inform others of prayer needs, set up prayer meetings, organize prayer chains, and so on. You work to help others pray more effectively.

Flexible pray-er: You engage in a variety of prayer styles. You move from one style to another, depending on where God needs you at the moment.

Other pray-er: Your style may not be described here and may need to be defined by you.

Get Real

Describe your prayer style or styles.

List your revelations about having a conversation with God.

* Smith, Alice. (2004). "Praying in Style #19 Prayer Styles" 2004, 9 June 2009. Colorado Springs, Co: Published by Pray!Kids. <<http://www.navpress.com/images/pdfs/43.pdf>>.