

Crafted Prayer By Graham Cooke

Crafted prayer is a form of prayer that always gets an answer.

The Holy Spirit wants to release a river of encouragement –a means by which you will be encouraged every day for the rest of your life.

Beginning prayer:

“Father, thank You. What a blessing You are. How majestic is Your Name! How I seek to receive Your Grace. You are such a champion, Lord, to people like us. We are so grateful to You—for Who You are, for all that You are doing and all that You are opening up to us in these days. Holy Spirit, You are so welcome. Come and do what You do best. You are such a great teacher. Come touch our hearts in Jesus Name.”

We come to listen and find out what God wants and then ask Him to do it. We need to listen before we pray. Reading scripture and listening is our foundation for coming to a time of prayer. We are opening a channel of communication by learning to be still. Otherwise, we are praying in our own strength.

The psalms are David’s Journal.

He writes in **Ps. 46:10** Be still and know.

We have to learn to bring ourselves to stillness to quell the clamoring on the inside. **Heb.4** says “Labor to be at rest”. Everything that causes you anxiousness, you push it away. “No! I’m not having that!”

Peace is the equalizing pressure on the inside. An equal or greater amount of peace on the inside so that what is on the inside, governs the outside.

Locate God. Make it your ministry. Find Him and go stand next to Him. Listen to His whisper—a sign of intimacy. God answers in a whisper to help us learn to listen.

Stillness is a precursor to peace. Without stillness, our experience of God is limited. There is a peace of God that is better than knowing why.

1 Thess. 5:16 says “Rejoice always!” Some of us need to be trained to be joyful. We need to learn to come and just minister to the Lord. We need to be trained to be happy in God – to rejoice. There are so many things to be thankful for,

Thankfulness leads to adoration.

Make a plan to upgrade your worship, praise and thanksgiving. Make a plan or it won’t happen.

It brings us to unceasing prayer—talking everything through with God as it comes into your life.

Conversational prayer is learning to talk everything over with God—telling Him your fears, your concerns as they occur. It is releasing your heart, mind and soul to live under the peace of God. It keeps our ability to hear Him at a really high level.

1 John 5:14-15 says “This is the confidence we have toward Him”. Confidence is absolutely critical.

We worship – listen – meditate (think deeply) – and write down our thoughts – and write a crafted prayer. Then we PUSH – Pray Until Something Happens.

Persevering prayer is continuing to pray at the same level of intensity, passion, power and faith—keeping hope alive, bright and shiny.

Always base your prayers on scripture to get an automatic “Yes!” Examples: Be merciful to me, a sinner. **(Luke 18:13)** Set my mind on what the H.S. wants today. **(Rom. 8:5)** Let me be led by the Spirit of God today, Father. **(Rom. 8:14)** Help me to put to death the deeds of the flesh that Your Life might reign in me. **(Rom. 8:13)** Show me Your ways, Lord. Teach me Your paths. **(Ps 16:11)** Lead me in the way everlasting. **(Ps. 139:24)** Renew my mind, Lord. **(Rom. 12:2)** Let me love you with all my mind, heart and strength. **(Mt. 5-6)** Let me hunger and thirst for righteousness. **(Mt. 22:37, Mk. 12:30, Lk, 10:27)**

Sometimes our emotions are present when we pray—sometimes not. But it doesn’t matter! God is present whether you feel Him or not. He said, “I’ll never leave you or forsake you.”

Ask the Lord for encouragement.

I ask Him every day. Whatever you need, you be the first to give it away. Need encouragement, go encourage somebody. Need some money? Go give some cash to somebody. Sick? Go lay hands and pray for someone worse than you.

Let the Lord comfort you. It’s His job description. Let Him do His job.

I have been writing crafted prayers for well over 20 years. The Lord said, “I want to bring you into a whole new place of communication with Me.” He was talking about my house—my internal house where He wanted to take up residence. The important thing is not “What do you want?” The important thing is “Where are you living?” Where- what place are you living from? From your spirit or your soul?

After a hard experience, my first crafted prayer:

“Father, I’m weary of being misunderstood. Renew my mind that I may not sin with my lips. I’m so tired of the ungracious scrutiny of others. Refresh my heart to look on them with love. Guard my heart from people who speak about me but not to me. I am helpless against the riptide of their will. I cannot defend myself. Hide me Dear Lord, in Your secret place and help me to be silent. I accept this part of Your cross. Change my heart through this. Let their words chisel away my roughness forming Christ. From misunderstanding, sculpt my life to reveal Your own beauty.

This prayer saved my life. It made me stand still under the hand of God.

Crafted prayer: write it out, meditate, think about what the Lord wants to say to you through the scriptures, read those, meditate for a while, worship, write it out. Put it in many accessible places – read it slowly to the Father, sometimes shout it, sometimes whisper it, sing it. There is no need for any other prayer. The Lord has told me what He wants to do.

Ps.51 is an example of crafted prayer. It is one of David’s crafted prayers from his journal (The book of psalms). Other crafted prayers are found in **Lk.11** (pray like this, “Our Father, Who art in heaven----“)

Eph.1:23 (one of Paul’s apostolic prayers),

Eph. 3:14. These prayers are full of the heart of God, full of the wisdom of God, full of what God wants to do for you.

When God gives us a crafted prayer we are praying the will of God and the answer. Effective prayer means a base from which we can be confident that we have heard from the Lord. Effective prayer is where the prophetic and intercession combines in agreement. God is intentional to us and we must return the compliment. There is a power of focused devotion in crafted prayer and thanksgiving.

Ps.57 contains crafted prayer and a psalm of thanksgiving. In crafted prayer, your heart becomes fixed and you become focused. It is all about God being exalted. We actually need to craft our prayers of thanksgiving, as well, so that we remember to be very specific in our thanksgiving.

An example of one of my early crafted prayers (re criminal background and sense of shame):

“Father, I need your mercy. I am afraid, Dear Lord, that unless You touch my heart, I’ll always be a hypocrite, a liar, a deceiver or worse. I humbly ask that You allow me to receive the fear of the Lord – that the holy terror of Your righteousness will come upon me to burn out the dross of my life and cleanse me with Your holy fire that I may be a man with a pure heart and clean hands. That I may be upright and blameless – a man who fears God and runs away from evil.” This enabled me to come boldly to the throne.

This is a lifelong prayer:

“ Father, please touch me by Your Spirit. Make me hungry and thirsty for Your righteousness. I desire Your presence above all things – to walk in unbroken delight with You. To be a constant and continual daily pleasure to You, Lord. I need Your purity and holiness, to be kept by Your mighty power, oh God. I humble myself before You and pray that Your truth and integrity will fill my life.”

Another I like praying:

Father, I want to sow to Your Spirit—to have my mind and heart set on You always. Please touch me by Your Spirit so that my devotion to You gives You great joy and glory. I humble myself in Your Presence and ask that I be able to worship You with a full heart. I pray that You will give me a soft heart before You, that I may intercede in Your Presence. May my prayers support the angels and their ministry. May I interact with them to fulfill Your glorious purpose.” That prayer settles my heart before God. When you pray, “give me a soft heart, softness descends.

I have a special crafted prayer for each member of my family, each friend, my church, different ministries, my community ---

When God gives you a prayer, He is saying, “Everything in My heart wants to say ‘Yes’ to you – so come in confidence”. God wants you to be confident in your approach to Him.

A prayer that you and the Holy Spirit have crafted make you more observant, more focused (on where the answer is coming from), it makes you more fixed. Then the enemy cannot bring us to unbelief and doubt. I am pushing in prayer: **Praying Until Something Happens.**

There is a comfort that comes to us. Faith remains with us. We persevere in confidence and there is a joy that is released that feeds our hope – our confident expectation. Praying becomes a pleasure, a delight - not a chore. It is a spiritual, devotional discipline. You can have prayers for every area of your life. It connects you with consistency. Sometimes we can hear for each other – or work out a crafted prayer with another.

The rules are:

Worship first, read scripture, think deeply and write down what your thoughts are.