



*Remodeling Your 'Prayer Closet'*

### **What is a ‘prayer closet’?**

- A prayer closet is a place where you go to meet with the Lord.
- It can be anywhere (favorite chair, outdoor patio, bathroom, kitchen or dining room table, the woods, on the floor)
- It can take on any posture

### **What is the purpose of a prayer closet?**

- Communion with God
- Cleansing/purification → Restoration
- Transformation (to be changed in character and conduct)
  - Instruction
  - Direction and guidance
  - Submission (surrendering to God’s will)

### **What should be the basic contents of your prayer closet?**

- Your bible
- Your prayer list (church prayer guide)
- Pen, highlighter
- Paper or notebook
- Prayer journal (optional)
- Music (optional)
- Devotional book or computer site

Then necessary tools should be in a basket, bag or pile ready to be utilized and mobile (so you don’t need to go running around looking for stuff!)

### **How often should you use your prayer closet?**

- You need to hear from God and talk to God daily
- You need to keep short accounts with God
- You need to pray for others and yourself daily

### **What are the obstacles to using your prayer closet?**

- I’m too busy
- I feel rushed
- I get interrupted
- I get too distracted
- I find it difficult to concentrate
- I’m too tired
- I don’t get support from my family
- I don’t feel like it
- I’m not enthusiastic

### How can you overcome the obstacles?

- **Determine to meet God** in your prayer closet every day
- **Schedule** a time (preferably in the morning) and place to meet with Him
  - **Jesus prayed early in the morning (Mark 1:35)**
  - **Jesus prayed in solitude (Luke 5:16; 9:18)**
- **Adjust** your schedule to do what works for you in your season of life
- Don't sweat the interruptions. (How do you handle interruptions when you're on the telephone or having a conversation with a someone face to face?)
- When thoughts of 'things to do' begin to plague you jot them down and go back to your prayer closet
- When you think your time with God is getting stagnant change your devotional, use music, or just eliminate the supplication and go straight to thanksgiving and acquire an 'attitude of gratitude'
- **Determine to have a basic bible reading plan** (don't jump around)
  - Read five Psalms daily for 30 days and repeat the next month
  - Read a chapter in Proverbs daily for 30 days and repeat the next month
  - Read a chapter or two starting at Genesis and finish in a year or two
  - Ask God to show you how what you're reading applies to you
- **Use the church prayer guide** for direction about who and what to pray for and add your personal prayer requests to the list
  - **Jesus used adoration (Matt 11:25-27), intercession (John 17:1-26) and thanksgiving (John 11:41-42)**
  - **Jesus prayed before important events**
    1. **At his baptism (Luke 3:21-22)**
    2. **Before selecting the apostles (Luke 6:12-16)**
    3. **At His transfiguration (Luke 9:28-29)**
    4. **In the garden at Gethsemane (Matt 26:36-42)**

Don't ever feel guilty, disappointed, discouraged, or depressed about missing a daily appointment with God in your prayer closet. Just pick up where you left off.

## Recommended Books to Use for Devotions

A Woman's Journey Through Psalms by Dee Brestin  
(Praise music CD is included)

A 30-Day Walk With God in the Psalms by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

Women Who Loved God (365 days with the women of the bible) by Elizabeth George

The Power of a Praying Woman, Wife, Parent series by Stormie Omartian

Conversations with God (Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans) by James Melvin Washington, PhD

At the Name of Jesus (365 Meditations on the Names of Jesus) by Sarah Hornsby

Praying the Names of God by Ann Spangler

Prayers of a Godly woman by Jim Gallery (purse sized)

When God Calls Me Blessed (Devotional thoughts for women from the Beatitudes) by Anita Corrine Donhue (purse sized)