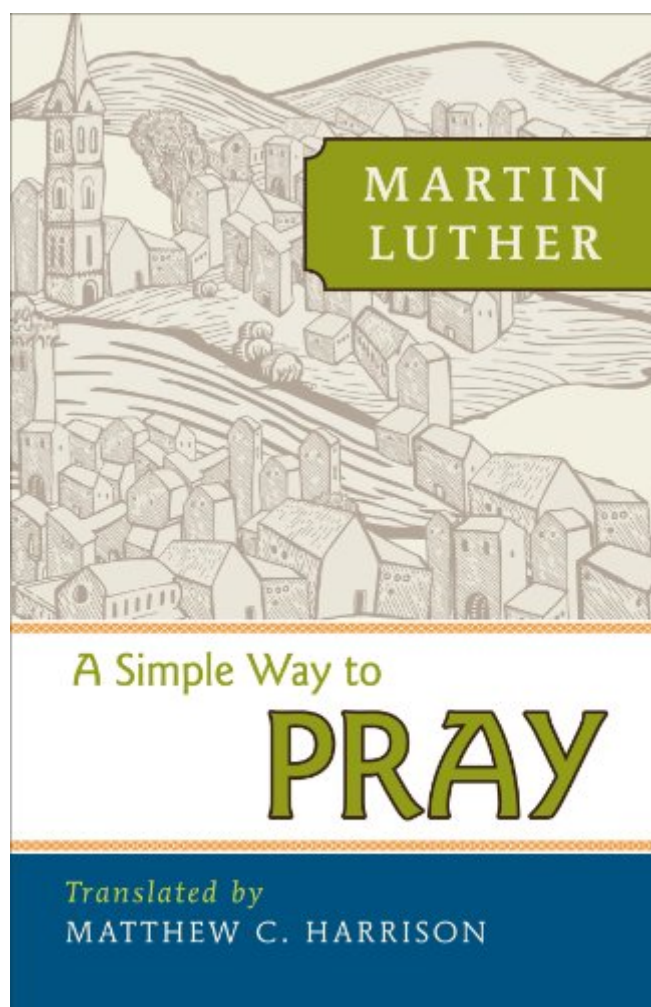


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A Simple Way To Pray



Synopsis

When asked by his barber and good friend, Peter Beskendorf, for some practical guidance on how to prepare oneself for prayer, Martin Luther responded by writing this brief treatise first published in 1535. *A Simple Way to Pray* is a fresh modern translation bringing us Luther's practical instruction, using Luther's I.T.C.P. method of prayer. This method anchors prayer in the catechism or other biblical texts, but allows the Holy Spirit to prompt thoughts via the Word, which may be chased more freely by the mind at prayer. Instruction: Lord Christ, You instruct me here that I am to listen carefully and heed the word of my pastor when he speaks Your Word. The pastoral office is profound; my pastor is not only charged to watch over my soul, but You also call him to account for his service to me. Finally, You tell me in this text that I am to be a joy to my pastor and not a pain, and this for my own spiritual benefit. Thanksgiving: Jesus, I thank You for my pastor. In fact, I thank You for the pastor who baptized me, and all pastors who have served me in my life as a Christian. Thank You for all the sermons that have clearly shown me my sin and delivered to me the free forgiveness of the Gospel because of Your sacrifice for me on the cross. Confession: Lord, I confess that so often I fail to pray for my pastor. I fail to be gracious to his family. I do not pay attention to his preaching. I have gossiped and failed to love and defend him and I put the best construction on everything. I deserve to have my faithful pastor taken away. Forgive me my many sins, and help me to do better. Help me especially to be a joy to my pastor and to encourage him in his difficult office.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed, greatly, the ideas that M.L. has for praying. It is helping me establish a not so set pattern in my praying. It is giving me good insight into what and how I am praying. It disturbs me to actually realize that ML seemed to have been very hostile and unforgiving towards Catholics. But, I guess that is where Protestant (protest) comes from! The breaking down of the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments in such a way is very helpful, in that, it helps you to learn how to pray without mindlessly doing so. I would highly recommend this book if you are trying to figure out a more fulfilling way to pray.

A Simple Way to Pray, translated by LCMS president Matthew Harrison, is a "must have" volume for all Christians. I recommend that every church purchase copies and distribute them to the congregation. Then the pastor should spend time reviewing the entire volume as a "back to the basics" study on prayer. Even if you are not Lutheran, you will find this a useful guide to prayer using the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and Apostle's Creed as its basis. It's a "simple" guide that, lead by the Holy Spirit, will lead the reader to new understanding of the use and power of prayer.

Short, straight to the point, and thought provoking. I have read several books on prayer and heard plenty of sermons, but this book is definitely among the best of them. An all time classic.

Martin Luther was a great man and he has wonderful prays and dedications in this book. If you are a Lutheran it is a must! If you aren't it is a must!

This is a most excellent and easy read for those who really want to learn how to pray biblically but do not want to get bogged down in the methods of such! It is amazing how simple this work is and yet it is very profound in its effect! I am a biblical counselor and I will be using this with EVERY counselee. What better way to learn to THINK - something that is sorely lacking in the church today!

I love anything written by Martin Luther and this book is one of them, but it is better suited for new Lutherans or parents to help their children how to pray. Although this book basically is Luthers small catechism with more commentary, but regardless this is a great book.

After reading this book I look at prayer in a whole different manner. It has given me a wonderful perspective on prayer that will take me throughout my entire life. There is no gimmick in this book - just an honest way to pray.

Next to Grace, The Word and Sacrament, prayer is the next important tool in a Christian's life to gain spiritual strength, give thanks or maintain faith within this broken world. Some believe the simplest way to pray is by memorized verse repetitively said. Others, that an individual's free flowing, controlled-focus-thought is the simplest way. Do you believe that you need guidance in growing your relationship with God through prayer? This little book, written by a world renowned Christian and translated from its German root, was an easy read, interesting, helped to organize my form of daily prayer and decrease distraction.

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