

EXPERIENCING
God
THROUGH
PRAYER

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JEANNE GUYON
National Best-Seller



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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Publisher's note:

This new edition from Whitaker House is an abridged revision of *A Short and Easy Method of Prayer*. The resulting version has been concisely edited for content and also updated for the modern reader. Words, expressions, and sentence structure have been revised for clarity and readability.

EXPERIENCING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

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Introduction



Introduction



This little book by Madame Jeanne Guyon is a treasure chest of spiritual wisdom. It contains rich nuggets of truth that could only have been revealed to her by the Spirit of God.

We have for many years seen the name of Jeanne Guyon held in high esteem through the writings of leaders in Christianity such as Andrew Murray, Watchman Nee, Hudson Taylor, and Jesse Penn-Lewis.

Unable to find any of her writings, we began a nationwide search, hoping to uncover one of her early manuscripts. When we finally found this book, we immediately knew it must be shared again with Christians in our century.

Madame Guyon was a unique handmaiden of the Lord. Having lived in a degraded society and having been imprisoned for her outspoken devotion to God, she wrote commanding and inspiring words urging men and women to turn from the earthly and press on to know God.

While the sentence structure and the language have been revised for today's reader, the profound truths remain untouched.

Experiencing God through Prayer

It is our hope that you will not only experience the presence of God in a fresh and wonderful way but also that you will desire to share these truths with others.

THE PUBLISHER

Preface



Preface



This simple little book was never intended for publication. It was written for a few individuals who had a desire to love God with all their hearts. Because of the great blessing they received in reading the manuscript, they requested additional copies; and this is why I agreed to publish it.

I submit my writings to the judgment of learned and experienced Christians. I do not criticize the divine leadings of others. On the contrary, they only reinforce the teachings I have received.

It is my purpose through the writing of this book to influence the world to love God and to serve Him successfully.

Yet I have written in a simple, easy manner so that even the uneducated and untrained would desire to be truly devoted to God.

If you read without prejudice, you will find hidden in the most common expressions a secret anointing that will cause you to seek the happiness that everyone can and should enjoy.

Experiencing God through Prayer

Perfection is easily obtained when we seek God within ourselves. Some readers may disagree and refer to John 7:34: “*Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me.*” However, Matthew 7:7 says, “*Seek, and ye shall find.*”

God does not contradict Himself. It is true that he who seeks God, yet is unwilling to forsake his sins, will not find Him. But he who seeks God and forsakes sin will certainly find Him.

Often, because holiness frightens many and answered prayer seems difficult to attain, some are discouraged from taking that first step. But when you understand how easy it is to pray and find joy, you will enjoy praying vigorously. The purpose of this book, then, is to dispel any myths and discuss the advantages of prayer.

If we only knew how much God loves us and wants to communicate with us, we would not set up impossible standards for ourselves. Nor would we become discouraged in obtaining good things from God. After all, it is His earnest intent to give us good things. “*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*” (Romans 8:32).

We have enough courage and perseverance in our worldly concerns. But in the spiritual realm, there is one thing needed. We must be more like Mary than Martha. Jesus tells us, “*But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her*” (Luke 10:42). He was referring to the fact that Mary had her priorities centered in knowing and hearing from Jesus. If you are one of those who believe it is not easy to find God, I only ask that you hear my testimony and then try this method for yourself. Your own experience will convince you more than any description I can give you.

Preface

Dear reader, study this book with a sincere spirit and a humble mind. If you read to criticize, you will fail to profit from it. It is my desire that as you read it, you will desire to completely devote yourself to God.

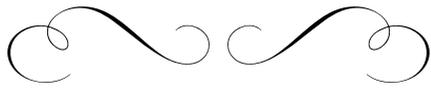
God is greatly grieved at the lack of trust among His children. Yet He delights when we come to Him in simple, childlike confidence.

Therefore, for your own salvation, seek only to find the love of God, and you will most assuredly obtain it. The result of following after the Lord will bring you much happiness.

This book was written to instruct you in prayer. It was not meant to offend. Those who seriously desire to know truth will find it.

JEANNE GUYON

One



Thirsting for God

One



Thirsting for God

Everyone is capable of praying, but many have the mistaken idea that they are not called to prayer. Just as we are called to salvation, we are called to prayer.

Scripture commands us to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is nothing more than turning our hearts toward God and receiving His love in turn.

Meditating on God’s Word in prayer is desirable but known by very few. For those who are seeking salvation, meditative prayer is not what God requires of you or what I would recommend.

Are you thirsting for those living waters Jesus promised when He said, “*If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink*” (John 7:37)?

Are you tired of feeling like a “*broken [cistern], that can hold no water*” (Jeremiah 2:13)?

Then come, you starving souls; come and be filled!

Experiencing God through Prayer

Come, bring your affliction, pain, and misery, and you will be comforted!

Come, you who are sick and filled with disease, and you will be healed!

Come, draw near to your Father who desires to embrace you in His loving arms!

Come, you poor, wandering sheep, back to the Shepherd!

Come, sinners, to your Savior!



*Come! For
Jesus Christ has
called you.*

Come, you who are uneducated in spiritual things! You are not incapable of praying!

Let everyone, without exception, come! For Jesus Christ has called all of you.



Yet those who are without a yielded heart are excused. For there must be a heart yielded before Him to receive His love.

Come, then, give your heart to God and learn the ways of prayer.

For those who have the desire, it is easy to pray. The Holy Spirit has enabled common men to pray great prayers by His gifts and grace.

Prayer can help you to attain perfection because it will keep you in the presence of God. Genesis 17:1 says, “Walk before me, and be thou perfect.” We are brought into His presence and kept there without interruption through prayer.

There is only one requirement, though, that you must follow at all times. It will not interfere with outward actions.

Thirsting for God

It may be practiced by princes, kings, priests, soldiers, children, and laborers.

This simple requirement is that you must learn to pray from your heart and not your head.

The reason for this is that man's mind is so limited in its operation, it can only focus on one object at a time. But the prayer offered from the heart cannot be interrupted by reason. Nothing can interrupt this prayer except confused affection. When you have enjoyed God and the sweetness of His love, however, you will find it impossible to set your affections on anything other than Him.

I have found it easy to obtain the presence of God. He desires to be more present to us than we desire to seek Him. He desires to give Himself to us far more readily than we desire to receive Him. We only need to know how to seek God, and this is easier and more natural than breathing.

Oh, dear ones, do not think of yourselves as misfits. By prayer, you can live in God's presence with as little effort as you live on the very air you are now breathing.

Is it not sinful to neglect prayer? But you do not have to live this way once you have learned this easy method.

Let us prepare our hearts now as we begin our study of prayer.