

Prayer: the heart of significant living



Prayer is at the heart not only of great religion, but of significant living. Without prayer we cannot scale the heights of compassion, or attain the peaks of love of our neighbor of which we are capable.

Prayer has been an enduring and universal phenomenon of human life, not because a priesthood ordained it, nor because tradition hallowed it, but because humanity is ever-seeking to probe into its own depths and bring to light its hidden yearnings. . . .

Prayer is a step on which we rise from the self we are to the self we wish to be.

Prayer affirms the hope that no reality can crush; the aspiration that can never acknowledge defeat. . . .

Prayer is not an escape from duty. It is no substitute for the deed.

Prayer seeks the power to do wisely, to act generously, to live helpfully. It helps to reinforce the act rather than to replace it.

Prayer is the search for silence amidst the noise of life. . . .

Prayer takes us beyond the self. Joining our little self to the selfhood of humanity, it gives our wishes the freedom to grow large and broad and inclusive.

Our prayers are answered not when we are given what we ask, but when we are challenged to be what we can be.

Morris Adler