

Reflections on Prayer

1. Prayerlessness is the act of embezzling our own lives from God
2. The issue of prayer is not prayer; the issue of prayer is God
3. Prayer is an answer to God's question to mankind in Eden, "*Where are you?*" Prayer responds, "*Here am I.*"
4. In prayer, we shift the center of living from self-consciousness to self-surrender
5. The human soul wanes when it is detached from God through the absence of prayer
6. Prayer is a way to master what is inferior in us
7. Prayer is no substitute for action
8. Prayer prepares the way for the Lord

9. To pray is to dream the dreams of God, to share his holy visions
10. The purpose of speech is to inform; the purpose of prayer is to partake
11. Prayer merges our lives into the plans and pleasures of God
12. To pray the Scripture is to dwell on the word until the word dwells in you

*As we pray, the words must not fall off our lips like dead leaves in the autumn.
They must rise like birds out of the heart into the vast expanse of eternity.*

Abraham Joshua Heschel