

A Simple Way to Pray

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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.

A Simple Way to Pray Details

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From Reader Review A Simple Way to Pray for online ebook

Kristen Harris says

Most excellent! Very inspiring, can't wait to try his methods!

Amanda says

Quick little book on prayer. When asked by his barber how to pray, this was Luther's response. The concept is simple - go through the Lord's Prayer, the 10 commandments, the Apostle's creed, and follow a 4-fold method of identifying what the passage teaches, thanking God, confessing failures to live up to the passage, and making petitions in line with the passage - and the book is mostly examples of how to pray this way.

J Layne says

This book and this version (Harrison translator) was recommended by Emily Whitten on World podcast, 10/3/17. Whitten says she was made aware of the book by R. C. Sproul, who has written a children's book about it, The Barber Who Wanted to Pray, published 2011.

There is much that is quotable here in this short, 11-page essay.

Sproul says that Luther's small book changed his prayer life. Sproul's children's book tells the true story about Luther going to his barber and his barber asking him how to pray.

The subheading reads: Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the 10 Commandments, and the Creed. A Letter to His Barber, Master Peter Beskendorf, Spring 1535.

Alastair Gooderham says

Luther's pithy prayer primer is brief but helpful in engaging with the Bible in prayer. The ITCP format is also helpful as an aid to prayer. Luther provides help whilst recognising it is not a prayer system to be repeated but a helpful pattern to guide and shape.

Ryan Watkins says

This short book was written by Martin Luther to his barber and friend Peter Beskendorf after Peter asked for advice on how to prayer. Luther gives a simple method emphasizing instruction, thanksgiving, confession, and prayer as well as praying thru the Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed. Recommended.

Sven says

The first thing I read by Luther. In German of course.

While back reading it, but what still stuck with me is how beautifully Luther uses the law in his prayer, next to the Lord's Prayer.

Colin Fast says

A clear and simple guide on how to pray the scriptures, with a specific focus on The Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles Creed. A good starting point for people looking for guidance.

Drew Fajen says

Luther gives a simple outline to pray, "a garland of four strands" and demonstrates it through the Lord's Prayer, the 10 Commandments, and the Creed. This book is typical Luther, a bit abrasive to today's culture, but all in all a very instructive, approachable, and worshipful guide teaching how to pray written prayers.

Lisa says

This short book was well worth my time.

Dominick says

Excellent little book on prayer. Though I sometimes have issues with the older style of writing, I definitely enjoyed this book and found it useful for me. The pattern of prayer takes fully into consideration our lives under simul justus et peccator. (Being both saint and sinner). It encourages, but it also recognizes our failures, past and future. Most of all it shows us a gracious God that we can come bow a knew to in repentance.

Devon Groner says

A must read for ALL Christians

Liam says

Wade says

Solid instruction and practical application (for brand-new, or mature, believers in Christ) on prayer.

Leslie says

If you're feeling stuck in your prayer life and are looking for some insight, this book is worth taking a look at. At 30 pages, it's a short read but offers suggestions that are worthwhile.

Luther opens up ways to pray through the 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. This is not a book that gives you word for word prayers that you should use in your own prayer closet; instead he gives you examples of things that you can pull out of God's Word to help you draw closer to God.

Kimberley says

"For the mind, once it is seriously occupied with a matter, be it good or evil, can ponder more in one moment than the tongue can recite in ten hours or the pen write in ten days."