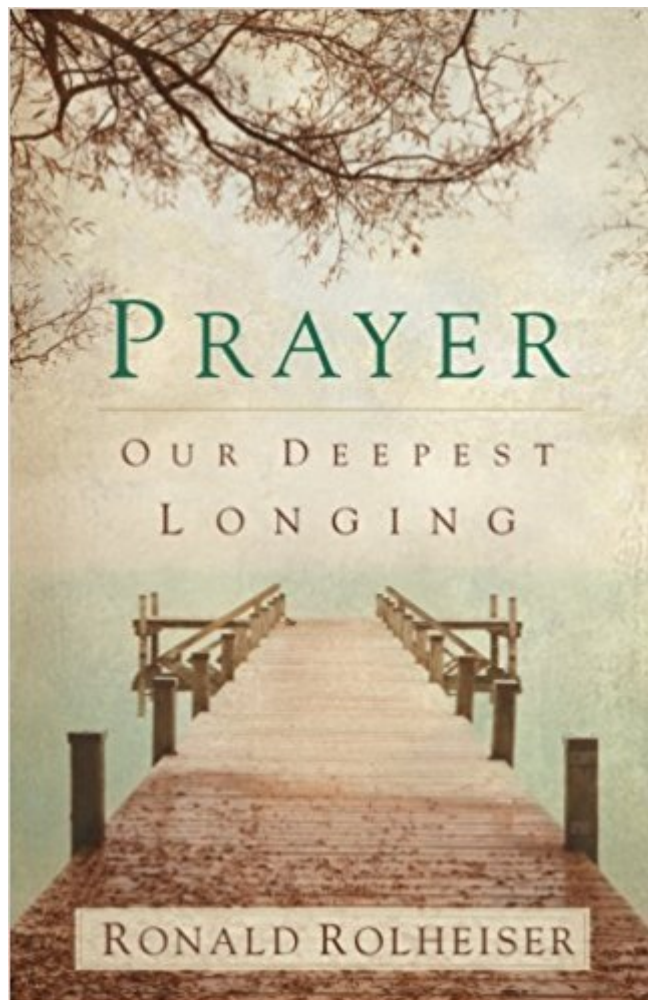


The book was found

Prayer: Our Deepest Longing



Synopsis

With simple, down-to-earth language, Rolheiser illustrates the importance of prayer and offers techniques for how to pray, using examples from daily life, Scripture, and contemporary writers. He delves into the places that we fear to go with our issues about prayer, encouraging us with gentle kindness and words of hope and inspiration. The book is divided into five sections. **Why Pray?** Illustrates the purposes and benefits of prayer for ourselves, as well as for the broader Catholic community and even the world. **Why Is It so Hard?** Notes how our contemporary culture conspires against taking time out for solitude and prayer, and how our own ego—with its fears, restlessness, and narcissism—can work against developing a deeper relationship with God through prayer. **What Is Prayer?** Outlines the two basic types of prayer, that is, affective (personal) and priestly (for the world). Describes the many ways or methods for each type of prayer, such as meditation, contemplation, the divine office, the Mass, and Scripture. **Sticking with It.** This section covers the development of mature prayer, discussing ways to pray in times of boredom, disillusionment, crisis, helplessness, or after a loved one's death. **Mysticism.** Here we learn about this increasingly popular form of intimate relationship with God. This is a book for all manner of believers, whether your faith is solidly rooted, wavering between childhood religion and adult faith, or just not sure what you believe—or whether you believe at all. It addresses topics such as narcissism, pragmatism, efficiency, and self-gratification that work against a healthy spiritual life. Rolheiser takes us to a place of contact and comfort, in relationship not only with God but with our true selves as well.

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Customer Reviews

"Many modern men and women claim to be so busy that they don't have time for a prayer life; they often feel uneasy with inner exploration in a culture where people spend their days skimming the surface of things instead of diving deep. Rolheiser rejoices in the idea of prayer as lifting the heart and mind to God. Part of this practice is celebrating God's presence and grace in our lives. The author salutes the importance of affective prayer—meditation, centering prayer, praying the rosary, and devotional prayers of all kinds. Rolheiser suggests that maturity in prayer is signified by patience with God, the sustaining power of ritual, facing our demons, wrestling with God, overcoming anger and despair, and sensing God as our real mother." —Frederic and Mary Brussat, *Spirituality and Practice*

Rolheiser avoids the superficial how-to methods and focuses instead on clarifying the deep longing in the human heart for communion and intimacy with God. Using a compassionate and encouraging style, Rolheiser redirects believers' common misconceptions and misunderstandings about prayer to the freedom, fulfillment, and necessity of spending time with the Heavenly Father. Although *Prayer* is a slim book, the guidance Rolheiser provides is meaty and scriptural. He keeps his stories and explanations on a common reader's level and does not try to impress with lofty, pious terminology or concepts. Prayer will help readers gain a clearer picture of the importance of prayer and encourage them not to be content with just a surface relationship with God.

—Jeff Friend, *Foreword Reviews*

Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is an internationally renowned speaker and spiritual writer. His award-winning weekly column "In Exile" is carried by more than seventy newspapers worldwide. He is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. Rolheiser is among the most popular and inclusive spiritual writers today. Although rooted in the Catholic faith, he is able to transcend denominational boundaries and religious language to appeal to both practicing Christians and unaffiliated seekers.

I bought this book because I was given the book "Our One Great Act of Fidelity" by Ronald Rotheiser. I was really impressed with the depth that he conveys about the Eucharist. When I started to read, *Prayer, Our Deepest Longing*, I found some areas in the back of the book that matched my fears and I read this part to my spiritual director and she was so impressed that she asked if she could borrow the book till we meet for our next session. Her comment was "So many Catholics are afraid to die and there is no reason for that, we should be looking forward to our eternal

reward". If this description fits where you are in your prayer life, this is a must read.

If you are serious about prayer, this book is for you. If you are simply curious about how to get started praying from the heart, this book is also for you. Rolheiser presents a depth of wisdom that leads any reader to a better understanding of how they might mature in their life of prayer.

Fr, Ronald Rolheiser has the gift of sharing his thoughts on the journey to fill our lives with God. I give the book and must read for a Christian searching to bring Christ into their lives. The book not complicated with words that need to be researched in the dictionary yet written with an educated voice.

I was not familiar with this author, except having read one of his articles "In safer hands than ours". I thought it was such an inspiring and beautiful message, and when I saw other books he wrote, I decided to try this one. I have read several books on prayer, and nothing touched my spirit like this one. I felt he was my personal "spiritual director" which most of us are not able to have. He set me free from all of the misconceptions I had about feeling I could not pray anymore or effectively. I now look at my prayer experience and relationship with Jesus as a more fulfilling and intimate way, like it used to be when one first comes to the joy of finding that personal relationship with Jesus. If you are frustrated with a dry prayer time or feeling like giving up....I would recommend it highly.

I am really enjoying this book. Ronald Rolheiser has a beautiful and educated outlook that has very much touched me and I hope opened me to a deeper and richer prayer life. I find myself recalling sections of his work as I sometimes struggle, and it lends peace allowing me to take a minute, breath, and reach back out to Christ. I hope you will take some time and read this book.

Recommended to me by a therapist. We have spent almost a year with my teen son who has been involved with a controlling girlfriend. Their relationship has torn our family into shreds. The book helped me in several ways: how do we pray to God? Do we think of our own concerns? We need to find solitude and listen to God speaking to us. It is hard in our society to be in solitude and quiet. We need to hear God tell us, "I love you." We need to go to God when we are angry, tired, whatever is inside us. As a Catholic, I have found our adoration chapel a place to find that solitude. And to sit and listen to God talking to me.

I have read other publications of Fr. Ronald Rolheiser and thoroughly enjoyed them, prompting me to purchase this book. It has not been a disappointment... he is a very deep and holy man, yet he is able to express his thoughts and ideas in language that doesn't require a dictionary, thesaurus nor a degree in theology. That being said, I don't think this book can be considered a primer on prayer, but rather for those who want to bring more depth to their prayer life, to deepen the intimacy of their relationship with God.

What a gift to all of us are this author's inspiring works. This is also well worth the read and will be re-read again and again, as well.

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