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Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

## The Power of Your Family's Prayers

"If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

**Does your family pray together often, or just at church?** Are you a little band of prayer warriors, or have you retreated from God's battlefield? Do you and your family pray only at mealtime, or do you pray much more often than that? The answer to these questions will determine, to a surprising extent, the level of your family's spiritual health.

Jesus made it clear to His disciples: they should pray always. And so should you. Genuine, heartfelt prayer changes things and it changes you. When you lift your heart to the Father, you open yourself to a never-ending source of divine wisdom and infinite love.

I once heard a powerful story of a man who was escorted by an angel down into hell. There, the man saw a round table with a big bowl of delicious food in the middle of it. Sitting around the table were people who were holding three-footlong spoons in their hands. They were wretched, skeletal, and starving, because the spoons were long enough to reach the food, but too long to put the food in their mouths. In anger and frustration, they tried desperately to feed themselves. The man turned his back on their torment, shaking his head. Then, the angel escorted him up to heaven.

Your family's prayers are powerful. So, as you go about your daily activities, remember God's instructions: "Rejoice always!" Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 HCSB). Start praying in the morning and keep praying until you fall off to sleep at night. And rest assured: God is always listening, and He always wants to hear from you and your family. AMEN.

"Prayer connects us with God's limitless potential." AMEN.

Henry Blackaby

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20

