



Praying Together: The Priority and Privilege of Prayer: In Our Homes, Communities, and Churches

Megan Hill

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Nearly all Christians would affirm the centrality of prayer for a healthy Christian life. And yet, for many, prayer is often a challenge, requiring intense personal commitment and self-discipline. However, as Megan Hill points out in *Praying Together*, our normal approach to prayer leaves out a crucial component: other people. While personal prayer is important, God designed the church to be a community of believers who regularly pray together. Exploring the Bible's rich teaching on what it means to gather at God's throne with one voice, Hill lays a theological foundation for corporate prayer and offers practical guidance for making it a reality--in our families, churches, and communities.

Praying Together: The Priority and Privilege of Prayer: In Our Homes, Communities, and Churches Details

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From Reader Review Praying Together: The Priority and Privilege of Prayer: In Our Homes, Communities, and Churches for online ebook

Kent says

Good motivation to pray with others. Liked her citation of older books on prayer--made me aware of some books that may be of interest to me in the future. Some good ideas, too, I hadn't thought of.

Elizabeth says

This book was one of the best I've read on prayer. The last chapter alone had me highlighting and taking notes more than the others. The study questions at the back are great also.

I'll be reading this again for sure. Very informative and helpful.

Michele says

I'll be honest that with the advent of the internet, social media and blogs often replace the small amount of time I have for reading books. And as a meatier book, this one is one of those that can be harder to get into. It is not as light and fluffy as so many of the books that compete well in this age. I first started on it when the internet went out in the hospital room that I was staying at with my son, and I have been richly rewarded for the effort. Megan Hill weaves encouraging stories with sound exegesis on the value of praying together. None of the Scriptures she shared were new, but I found that my individualistic bias had blinded me to richness that they contain on this topic. Indeed she shares not just why we should pray together, but how to do it and what benefits we derive. I found myself both encouraged about how often I do already pray with other believers while also being challenged to make it a greater priority. I love the way she presents the ordinary believers in the church as the ones who have so much to teach us and encourage us in our faith and prayer life as we pray together. Indeed it is a privilege to come before the throne of our great God with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ashley Davison says

Great resource on prayer! I will read again in the future and use the discussion questions next time.

Clayton says

I found the many stories helpful by giving a picture of what praying communities look like. Theologically sound but readable. May not be a re-read but definitely a book to skim through as a reference.

Adam Thomas says

A wonderful encouragement to pray with others, both in church meetings, informal groups, and families. Hill discusses the biblical basis for praying together, what happens when we do, and how we could go about it in different contexts. The real strengths of this book are the sections that are distinctively about praying with others: I particularly valued the discussions on prayer in the contexts of discipleship, hospitality and parenting. Along the way, Hill offers some choice quotes, real-life illustrations and memorable phrases - as well as direct exhortations to get on and pray! The discussion guide at the end means this would make an excellent resource for a small group. I would have given this five stars if the "practical" sections had been a bit more practical, and if her use of Scripture had been a bit more reflective.

Ellie Benson says

IMG_8855I meant to sit down and write this review before Sebastian was born. I'm just now getting to it. Thankfully with the help of caffeine and finally some decent sleep I'm able to talk about this precious book, Praying Together by Megan Hill. Know that I read this during some very sleepless, anxiety-filled nights and I found it a great comfort.

“People who know their God are before anything else people who pray.” – J.I. Packer

In the beginning of Praying Together, Megan Hill quotes J.I. Packer “People who know their God are before anything else people who pray.” It’s a mic-dropping quote, I feel like Megan is saying “I’m just going to put this right here” but does one better and continues to elaborate the point for the rest of the book. It is an excellent overall sentiment for the book, That God’s people pray, and people being plural...pray together. We aren’t islands for our own prayer, yes we pray in our prayer closets and by our bedsides and our early morning devotional corners but we were not meant to do life alone and for the believer that means prayer becomes a very important priority to being a part of the body.

In Praying Together, Megan Hill first shows us the foundation for praying together through the example of scripture and helps us to understand where we fit in this context.

“And so we come at last to the direct commands—the explicit imperatives—of the New Testament Epistles. Again and again these Scriptures tell us to pray together. With everybody. Everywhere. About everything.”

I love this simple and beautiful quote that sums up some why’s, when’s, where’s, who’s and how’s. Prayer with one another IS a beautiful gift of God and as we build on the foundation of scriptural prayer we see the fruit of that prayer. Praying Together has helped me to see the bigger picture of prayer in regards to the body. That not only is the desire of prayer, answered prayer, but it also the love, discipleship and the genuine revival God provides to believers that pray together. The fruits of prayer, Megan Hill calls them.

“In a glorious circle, as we love each other we cultivate one harmonious voice—with which we delight to pray together all the more.”

What better way can we become best knit together as we live in a world that breaks us and causes godly grief to form in our hearts at every turn, than through prayer?

I particularly enjoyed the portion of *Praying Together* that delved into the practical practice of prayer. Megan quotes Dietrich Bonhoeffer “It is, in fact, the most normal thing in the common Christian life to pray together.” and asks us to consider if this is true for us in our church, groups, and homes. I would love to say that it always is but I know that would be a lie. I am thankful though that Meghan Hill outlines some practical examples for us so succinctly to ponder the point. When I struggle with my prayer life, and just my life-life, I need to read of the godly wisdom of believers that first turn to prayer instead of the worries and anxieties alluringly laid before me.

“It is, in fact, the most normal thing in the common Christian life to pray together.”

If you would love to understand the larger picture of prayer in the life of the believer, I so encourage you to read *Praying Together* and allow it sit on your mind and heart as you begin to use the wisdom written in it.

The Women’s leadership group at my church will be heading to hear Megan Hill this Fall and I very much look forward to hearing her thoughts on prayer in person.

“Brothers and sisters, let us pray together wherever we can—in back rooms and backyards, in empty classrooms and in deserted stairwells, at picnic tables and pews and subway platforms—asking the Lord to gather a great harvest to himself”

The image here is such a beautiful one. In Psalms 42, which I have been studying this month for a teaching session, we see an image of great brokenness, great thirst for living water. It acknowledges our great need. We are broken, we are thirsty, our only hope is in a holy god that transforms us, our hearts, our minds and our desires. So let us pray and draw our hearts toward him, TOGETHER.

Susan Lindemulder says

Thoroughly enjoyed this book and can't wait to hear the author speak at our Women's Retreat. Very thought provoking, scripture supported, and personally convicting.

Sarah Norton says

If you have never read a book on prayer, like me, I recommend starting with this book. Megan Hill has written a very detailed and relevant book on what prayer is and how you should be praying. I really enjoyed her examples of how prayer has brought revival and shaped communities as well as individuals.

Something that struck me was her emphasis that prayer is a relationship between us and the Trinity. She says "In prayer, we approach a loving, listening Father, and we are helped by the intercession of the Son and the groaning of the Spirit." I admit that my understanding of the Holy Spirit is lacking and I found while reading this book that I often give Jesus credit for things the Spirit does.

I enjoyed this relatively short book, only 125 pages of content. She also included study questions at the end which makes it a perfect book to do with a friend or small group.

Katey Magill says

Theologically insightful, practical, precise. Powerful entreaties. Efficient and effective illustrations. Obscure treasures from church history...not your typical female- authored, Evangelical spirituality book. Awesome!!

Lindsey says

If you're looking for a book that covers the theology of prayer (rather than a "self-help" oriented to-do book), this is a good place to start. It covers a variety of angles in a readable way. Part one covers why we pray together and part two covers what God does when we pray (the fruit of prayer). Part three covers some how but really she concentrates on the different contexts to pray (church, partners, family, etc.). She's no J.I. Packer (she says this herself!), but she offers a good roundup of Biblical prayer that's approachable.

Studentofparables says

If you're looking for a book that will move and convict you deeply, yet teach you with great skill – “Praying Together” is one of my highest recommendations, as Ms. Hill writes with passion, eloquence, and truth.

The overarching theme is that of praying in community, but the chapter lengths and study questions are great for personal study as well as group. There are many layers to unpack in each section, and working through it with others will allow you to unfold them all.

I really enjoyed all the historical and Biblical context Ms. Hill pulls in as she lays out each point for her reader. It gives the work greater depth, helping to stick with the reader throughout the day. I definitely can't wait to go over these lessons with my children.

In short, your prayer lives will be changed.

I received a review copy of this work from the publisher through NetGalley

Jaimie says

Quotes from the book:

"Christians can sometimes rapport prayer like a math problem, believing that enough people praying with enough boldness will force God to answer in a way we want. Instead, in the words of Ian Murray, "God has chosen to make prayer a means of blessing, not so that the fulfillment of his purposes becomes dependent on us, but rather to help us learn our absolute dependence upon him."...We ask humbly, and we await his good answer."

"In a culture enamored of spontaneity and so-called authenticity, it is important for us to realize that we must first form the habit of praying together before we will instinctively pray together in all the little moments of

our days."

"As Terry Johnson writes, "Our children should grow up with the voices of their fathers pleading for their souls in prayer ringing in their ears, leading to their salvation, or else haunting them for the rest of their lives.""

"...nothing could be less welcoming than sharing with guests the physical provisions of our home while thoughtlessly excluding them from its source of spiritual nourishment."

"As we pray, we proclaim to our guests -and remind ourselves!- that we are each spiritual beings who owe worship to God and approach him only through the blood of Christ."

"Brothers and sisters -without hesitation or apology, for the good of our families and guests, in obedience to the Word, for the glory of our God- let us pray together in our homes."

Tara Barthel says

I love beautiful prose and apt illustrations. When I book teaches me a new word (or two or three!), I know I am in for a treat. But my favorite thing of all about excellent Christian writing is when I forget the author and stop even noticing the beauty and wisdom of the words, because my heart is actively being drawn to meditate on the Triune God as revealed in Holy Scripture. And thus it is with Megan Hill's, "Praying Together: The Priority and Privilege of Prayer in Our Homes, Communities, and Churches."

This is an excellent book on prayer that I endorse and recommend without hesitation.

Unlike some of my other favorite books on prayer—some are richly theological, but a little weak in the practical application; others are phenomenal in diagnosing our real-life struggles regarding prayer and offering "solutions," but present only the pale veneer of a shell of robust practical theology—Megan strikes a beautiful balance of Scriptural exegesis with relevant illustrations and instructions. She is also extremely encouraging!

Megan organizes Praying Together into three parts: 1) The Foundations of Praying Together (Relationship, Duty, Promise); 2) The Fruits of Praying Together (Love, Discipleship, Revival); and 3) The Practice of Praying Together (Praying with the Church, Partners and Groups, Family and Guests).

Here are a few of my favorite quotes from Praying Together:

- Our relationship with the God who is three-in-one assures us that all three will involve themselves in our praying—making the prayers of a Christian part of a grand, heavenly conversation.
- A company of praying people is a company of people equally dependent on God. But we also come to prayer with equally good help. The most eloquent giant and the most timid new believer can pray boldly together because Jesus prays for them both.
- In prayer together, we love one another ... Our common experiences are an opportunity for mutual love, and hearing the prayers of sympathetic friends gives us comfort. We take this same comfort from Christ as he prays for us.
- Praying together is a loving act of Christian discipleship.
- Thanking God together is an effective guard against ingratitude.
- Whether I feel like it or not, I pray.
- The Christian never prays alone. And the Christian never leads others in prayer by himself but always has

the promised and sufficient help of the three: the listening Father, the meditating and interceding Son, and the helping Spirit. With this confidence, you can take steps (I'll suggest three) to better lead others in prayer ...

- If it is good for us to pray in all our human relationships, it is especially sweet to pray regularly with our closest friends.
- Praying together ought to be an element of the hospitality that God repeatedly commands us to offer ... our prayers together refresh the hearts of saints and stand as a testimony to the unconverted.
- Brothers and sisters, let us pray.

Amen and amen! And thank you, Megan, for this gift to the Body.

With much gratitude,
Tara Barthel, Author of Living the Gospel in Relationships and Co-author of Peacemaking Women and Redeeming Church Conflicts

PS

Megan also includes wonderful study questions and a detailed bibliography, so this is a book that could (and should) definitely be used in group settings.

Stacia says

I would highly recommend this book to others. It's a quick read that packs a lot of punch. Hill had some great encouragements, insights and stories about prayer. It gave me a lot to think about and a wishlist for changed routines and options of how to add more prayer within groups and through our church.
