

Study Guide: Prayer in the Christian Life; Evangelical Counsels

To study the topic on the Church's teaching about prayer, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. What is prayer? Why is humility the foundation of prayer? (CCC 2559)
2. How does the Catechism explain the text from John 4:10 in the context of prayer? How is prayer a two-way street (CCC 2560-2561)
3. How does the Catechism view the importance of the *heart* in prayer? Why the heart? (CCC 2562-2564)
4. How does the Catechism characterize "the habit of prayer"? (CCC 2565)
5. From where does the desire to pray come? (CCC 2566-2567)
6. To describe the role of prayer in the Old Covenant, the Catechism begins with creation. What is the connection with prayer **in** the world's non-Christian religions? (CCC 2569)
7. What is the chief characteristic of Abraham's prayer? Why is it important? (CCC 2570-2573)
8. Why is the incident of the burning bush one of the "primordial images of prayer" in the tradition of the Old Covenant? What does Moses learn of prayer? (CCC 2574-2577)

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9. What does the Church learn from the prayer of Samuel, David, and Solomon? (CCC 2578-2580)

 10. Why is the mission of the prophets one of conversion of heart in prayer? (CCC 2581-2584)

 11. What characteristics of prayer emerge from the Psalms? (CCC 2585-2589)

 12. What are the "evangelical counsels"? Why do certain persons take them on as part of their Christian lives? (CCC 914-916)

 13. The Catechism describes the many varieties of consecrated life using the Evangelical Counsels. Briefly, define and show how the counsels are practiced in: the eremitical life ... (CCC 920-921)

 14. ... the life of *consecrated virgins* ... (CCC 922-924)

 15. ... life in institutes of "religious life" ... (CCC 925-927)

 16. ... and in "secular institutes" ... (CCC 929-929)

 17. ... -and life in "societies of apostolic life". (CCC 930)

 18. According to the Catechism, what is the point of all of these versions of consecrated life? (CCC 931-933)