

Time to Pray





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3558 S. Jefferson Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

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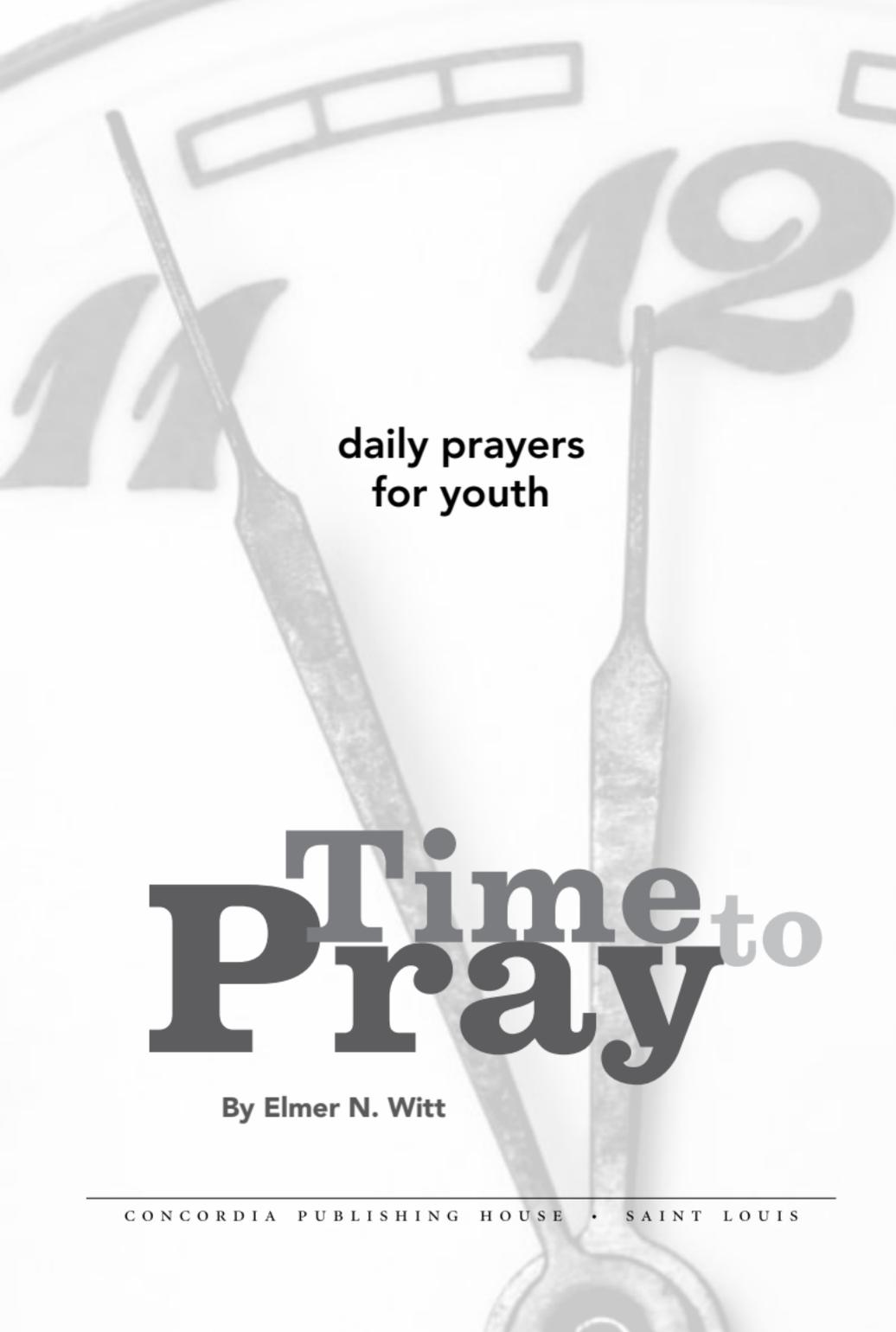
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Manufactured in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11



daily prayers
for youth

Time to Pray

By Elmer N. Witt

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS





Contents

Preface	6
Introduction	7
1. About Myself	9
2. About My World	35
3. About My Life of Prayer	53
4. About God	69
5. About the Life of My Lord	81
6. About My Church	93
7. About the Word of God	103



Preface

As part of the planning of this book of prayer ideas for youth, hundreds of young people indicated on a questionnaire whether or not they liked written prayers. A majority answered that they did not. At the same time, a larger majority of the same young people acknowledged that they regularly used some kind of book of prayers if and when they prayed.

In a real sense, then, this book grows from another of the dilemmas of Christian youth: the desire to pray from the heart versus the realization that prayer suggestions or ideas are quite helpful. **Time to Pray** is composed of prayers on a large variety of subjects chosen from lists given by youth themselves. It is by no means complete, but it is prepared in the hope and with the prayer that it may help more young people find more **Time to Pray**.

The prayers of this book are, for the most part, original. Wording and style were selected in the desire to make prayers natural and expected in the midst of everyday happenings in the life of youth.

— **Elmer N. Witt**



Introduction

The ideal life of prayer is a combination of good prayers of today and yesterday with creative prayers from the heart and lips of the individual who is bold in approaching the throne of mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, we encourage the development of your own prayers on the subjects used in this book. You will note that pages 66–67 list “Suggested Prayer Causes,” which might well stimulate your daily prayer, and that pages 54–61 offer evening and morning prayers for each day of the week.

Because of topic or wording, some prayers are more subjective, more personal, than others. This is intentional, and it is hoped that the one who uses **Time to Pray** will have other prayers, the Scriptures, and particularly the words of our Lord’s Prayer to balance the devotional time of each day.

The holy Lord of heaven and earth, our Savior, Jesus Christ, has not only commanded us to pray and has not only promised to hear us but has also, above all this, promised to help us learn to pray by the inspiration and power of His Holy Spirit, who lives within us. So, in your own words, possibly helped by this book, and in regular use of the Word of God, make the **Time to Pray** in your life the best part of each day.





Responsibility

Lord Jesus Christ, You who always have time for individuals, help me as I find my place in life. Enable me to do my own thinking, my own deciding, and my own planning. Make me grateful for the love and advice of others, but lead me to see Your will in my own heart.

Blessed Jesus, I face challenges and opportunities that make me afraid. I know I am weak and sinful. Be my strength, dear Lord. Surround me with Your forgiving love. Make me sure of Your power.

As I grow in accepting responsibility, keep me from pretending to be what I am not. Protect me, dear friend of sinners, from the mistakes of pride and overeagerness. Grant me courage and joy in choices and decisions made in Your holy name. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving

Dear Father in heaven, teach me the meaning of a thankful life. No mind can understand and no lips can adequately tell the boundlessness of Your gifts to me and all people every day.



Make me mindful of the little things of daily life that continually and unnoticed express Your love: a good night's sleep, comfortable shoes, a glass of cold water, a perfect day, the play of children, the good feeling of success, playing a game, or seeing beauty in nature and in those around me.

Make me mindful of Your greatest gifts, dear God: life and breath itself, the wonders of history, the advances of science, the endlessness of music, and the privileges to talk and hear and see. Even more—the knowledge of the forgiveness of all guilt and sin in the perfect life, a peaceful end to life, and certain resurrection in Jesus Christ, my Savior. **Amen.**

Realities of Life

Teach me, O Master, to study the history of my day. Give me understanding as I hear news reports on radio and television and as I read blogs and Web pages.

Do not let me run from the realities of poverty, crime, tragedy, and death that enter the lives of others. Do not let the depressing picture of my world get me down.