

Adoration

Prayer Tool: How to Pray Creatively

What?

Prayer doesn't just mean words. This prayer tool will help you to engage creatively in your relationship with God.

Why?

"Cast forth the soul in prayer, you meet the effluence of the outer truth, you join with the creative elements giving breath to you" George Meredith

Bible reference:

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests"
Ephesians 6:18

A quick introduction to Praying Creatively

Made in the image of the Creator Himself, each one of us is an original design, created to reflect in a unique way the glory of God.

To be human is to be creative – it is our DNA, one of the main traces of the divine within those fashioned from of the dust of the ground.

Therefore it should follow that our expressions of worship to our Creator and Saviour will be many and varied.

This is exactly what Paul means in Ephesians when he describes the church as the reflector of the 'manifold wisdom of God' (Ephesians 3:10).

The word manifold here is *poikolos*, meaning 'wrought in various colours'. It implies, like the surfaces of a gemstone, the multi-sided reflections of colour, light and pattern. Think of the mesmerising effect of a kaleidoscope and we are getting very close to the real meaning of 'manifold wisdom.'

If this is how we, as the Church, are to display God's glory, then it makes sense that our prayer lives should look more like a paint party or rock concert than prayer

meetings!

How could we ever reduce or limit something as important as prayer to simply words?

Do it: How to Pray Creatively

Most of us may be familiar with our prayers being formed by liturgy or well developed prayer-rhetoric. Fewer of us feel permission to express our worship in dance, song, art, poetry or a walk in the mountains. Everything from Bach to Bono, from Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel to a toddler's painted hand-print, from Shakespeare's poetry to the bad grammar a journal entry.

All of this is worship.

The artistic DNA of the divine is a powerful motivating factor for 24-7 Prayer. Since those first prayer rooms back in 1999, we have been watching and celebrating the prayerful artistic licence prayer rooms have facilitated.

From songs written in the middle of the night, to poems written by the wise, faithful sages resident in our churches, to the young person's drawing which reveals their experience of family, to a prophetic word scribed beautifully on a wall, all of these serve us a forceful reminder – 'surely God is in this place.'

Keep that imaginative right-side of your brain, usually more active in our younger years, alive and kicking. Never stop living out of your imagination.

The heavens are not covered by a closed dome of glass. Rather, one world is overlapping with one-another and it's all much more enchanting than we realise. Bring who you are to God and let it all out.

Books on Praying Creatively

- Sacred Pathways – Gary Thomas
- The Sacred Year – Michael Yankoski

The following guides can also be found on the 24-7 Prayer website:

- Creative Prayer ideas: 24-7prayer.com/creativeprayerideas
- How to encourage Creative prayer: 24-7prayer.com/EncouragingCreativePrayer

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