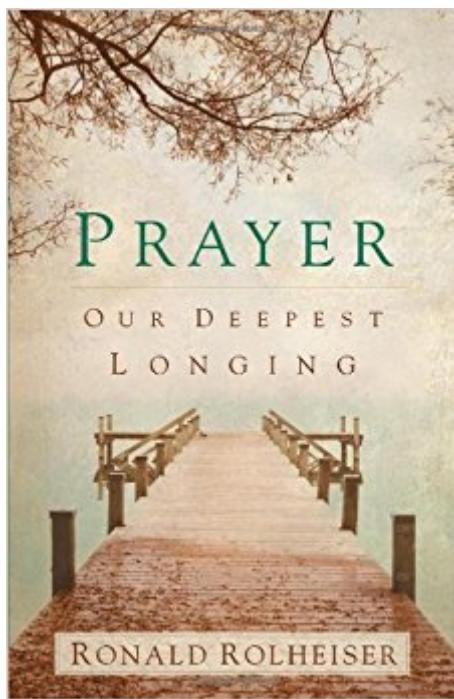


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# Prayer: Our Deepest Longing



## Synopsis

With simple, down-to-earth language, Rolheiser illustrates the importance of prayer and offers techniques for how to pray, using examples from daily life, Scripture, and contemporary writers. He delves into the places that we fear to go with our issues about prayer, encouraging us with gentle kindness and words of hope and inspiration. The book is divided into five sections. **Why Pray?** Illustrates the purposes and benefits of prayer for ourselves, as well as for the broader Catholic community and even the world. **Why Is It so Hard?** Notes how our contemporary culture conspires against taking time out for solitude and prayer, and how our own egoâ "with its fears, restlessness, and narcissismâ "can work against developing a deeper relationship with God through prayer. **What Is Prayer?** Outlines the two basic types of prayer, that is, affective (personal) and priestly (for the world). Describes the many ways or methods for each type of prayer, such as meditation, contemplation, the divine office, the Mass, and Scripture. **Sticking with It.** This section covers the development of mature prayer, discussing ways to pray in times of boredom, disillusionment, crisis, helplessness, or after a loved oneâ ™s death. **Mysticism.** Here we learn about this increasingly popular form of intimate relationship with God. This is a book for all manner of believers, whether your faith is solidly rooted, wavering between childhood religion and adult faith, or just not sure what you believeâ "or whether you believe at all. It addresses topics such as narcissism, pragmatism, efficiency, and self-gratification that work against a healthy spiritual life. Rolheiser takes us to a place of contact and comfort, in relationship not only with God but with our true selves as well. A study guide for the book can be found [here](#).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, is an internationally known lecturer and writer. The author of a 2010 article on Rolheiser for National Catholic Reporter had this to say about him: "Few Catholic authors have that kind of cradle-to-grave appeal, across the widest possible spectrum of political and theological outlooks and life experiences." His latest book, *Prayer, Our Deepest Longing*, bears out that observation. In the 32 reflections on prayer Rolheiser covers topics using examples from daily life, Scripture, and contemporary culture ranging from Zorba the Greek to the cartoon Ziggy. Scripture references are sometimes familiar, sometimes enlightening, depending on the reader. For example, in writing about the Good Shepherd, Rolheiser explains that sheep were so attuned to their master's voice they would not follow even a very good imitator. He also explains the phrase "He descended into hell" from the Apostle's Creed in a way unfamiliar to me. The material is organized into six chapters addressing prayer issues such as common struggles, hearing God's voice, and developing a mature prayer life. Rolheiser's intention for this book is to provide "a healthy combination" of consolation and challenge to help readers overcome struggles with prayer "so that it no longer feels as though you are simply doing some drab duty, wasting precious time, talking to a wall, entertaining yet another daydream, or simply rehashing your heartaches and headaches." The reflections may be read in any order, he writes, then echoes a non-negotiable rule from great spiritual masters: You have to show up for prayer and you have to show up regularly.

This is not like other writings of the religious. Our deepest longing is that place of peace, where we find meaning in a chaotic and distracting world. This work discusses kinds of prayer, finding value in each, and is refreshing in terms of the permission we are given to allow prayer to develop. But more importantly Fr. Rolheiser somehow senses the bourgeois lifestyle is ultimately unfulfilling. Regularly in this work I look up and cry "He gets it!" meaning that has put into words the emotional wasteland I sense in the secular world; all of us in cars rushing to get to and from work to push papers or use up our lives with television or facebook, horrible experiences at shopping malls and the ugly of materialism. He seems to understand life is not about the next big purchase, and instead acts as sort of a guide providing way points for the soul. This work is a down to earth look at heavenly searching. While the works of a mystic like John Paul II were inspiring, and those of Cardinal Ratzinger and later Benedict XVI were intellectually stimulating, this work reaches the soul, gives the American a reason to believe, as John Paul II's title allows us to be "Crossing the Threshold of Hope". I can't think of any reason to drop a star here. I can recommend this to anyone interested in

an interior life.

I bought this book because I was given the book "Our One Great Act of Fidelity" by Ronald Rolheiser. I was really impressed with the depth that he conveys about the Eucharist. When I started to read, Prayer, Our Deepest Longing, I found some areas in the back of the book that matched my fears and I read this part to my spiritual director and she was so impressed that she asked if she could borrow the book till we meet for our next session. Her comment was "So many Catholics are afraid to die and there is no reason for that, we should be looking forward to our eternal reward". If this description fits where you are in your prayer life, this is a must read.

Every page of this book does justice to the title "prayer - our deepest longing". My favorite part of the book was the chapter on practicing affective prayer.. "The simpler something is, the harder it is to wrap our minds around it". I find this book very simple, yet profound. I would highly recommend this to everyone.

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser has the gift of sharing his thoughts on the journey to fill our lives with God. I give the book and must read for a Christian searching to bring Christ into their lives. The book not complicated with words that need to be researched in the dictionary yet written with an educated voice.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser's writing and speaking are always inspirational and insightful; and this one is no exception. It is a good explanation of the various types of prayer and how they fit together and complement each other. But it has something new to offer: an emphasis on prayer from the heart and prayer flowing out of a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. Father Ron makes the point that in our prayer we must at least once hear Jesus say, "I love you;" and then prayer takes on that special meaning it should have in our lives.

If you are serious about prayer, this book is for you. If you are simply curious about how to get started praying from the heart, this book is also for you. Rolheiser presents a depth of wisdom that leads any reader to a better understanding of how they might mature in their life of prayer.

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