

# OPENING KAVANAH

## RESPONSIVE READING

Prayer is at the heart not only of great religion, but of significant living.

***Without prayer we cannot scale the heights of compassion or attain the peaks of love for fellow human beings of which we are capable.***

Prayer has endured not because a priesthood ordained it, nor because a tradition hallowed it, but because human beings are ever seeking to probe our inner depths and bring to light our hidden yearnings.

***Prayer requires no consecrated space, no appointed hour. Indeed, it needs no words.***

Prayer is a step on which we rise from the self we are to the self we wish to be.

***Prayer blesses us with the power to choose wisely, to act generously and to live helpfully.***

Prayer affirms hope and reinforces our actions.

***Prayer is the search for silence amidst the noise of life.***

Our prayers are not answered when we are given what we ask, but when we are challenged to be what we can be.

By Morris Adler

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Where do we begin? Where do we find God? How do we begin to pray?

**We are created in God's image.  
In God's image, we can pray to God.**

Our breath of life comes from God.  
With our breath of life, we can pray to God.

**We are blessed with a Neshamah, a Jewish soul.  
From our Neshamah, we can pray to God.**

From the essence of our beings, from our innermost center  
that is fundamentally linked to our Creator,  
We will pray and praise and ponder.

**Prayer may seem beyond our reach,  
but real prayer has stirred in our soul  
since our very first days.**

By Harold Schulweis