

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