

# Prayer can help with exams

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Sometimes taking exams is not as much a test of knowledge as a test of confidence. Some people seem to test better than others. If you have difficulty taking tests, or even if you don't, prayer can help.

Prayer for the exam actually begins during your study and preparation time. My dad, who was valedictorian of both his high school and college class, told me how he prayed for exams. It worked for him. It worked for me. Perhaps it will work for you.

Each day before he began studying, he would read a Bible lesson. In our denomination there is one prepared each week. But turning to the Bible and finding something that really speaks to you from the New Testament, Psalms, or Isaiah will have the same effect.

He would read and study the Bible lesson until he had a clear assurance of the presence and power of God. God is the one divine Mind and is the source of intelligence. All right ideas come from God, divine Mind. God is communicating right ideas constantly and providing us with all the ideas that we need to know, telling us what to study and how to study. My dad would study the Bible until he felt calm and receptive to the ideas from divine Mind. Only then would he turn to the books. When he was under a lot of pressure with too much to study and too little time, he told me that was when he made sure he started with the Bible first. There was no time to waste in frazzled thinking. He needed to think clearly, cut right to the important material. He didn't have time to guess. So he always started with the Bible and turned completely to God. Then, he said, his study time was much more productive.

In addition I would study the Bible or Science and Health by Mrs. Eddy until I got one fresh inspiration. That was my cue that I was listening to God. Then I would turn to the subject matter and know that God was giving me fresh inspiration there too. After doing this for awhile, I discovered that I accomplished more in less time. It seemed I just knew what I needed to study and remember.

The night before taking an exam, I would take time before I went to bed to specifically pray and study the Bible. This communion time with God always prepared me for the day ahead. I would pray again in the morning on the way to the exam, affirming that I was the reflection of God. As God's reflection, I expressed the Mind of God. My intelligence was not limited. Whatever God knew, I knew by reflection.

By the time I actually got to the exam, I had already prepared through prayer several times. I had prayed while studying, the night before, that morning. Instead of a panic prayer when the test was placed before me begging for God's help or mercy, I was confident. I had been listening to God. I had established a daily communion with Him. I was confident of my ability to listen once again to the right ideas coming from God that were the answers to the questions.

I was not valedictorian. But each time I prepared myself prayerfully for exams I performed well. God, divine Mind, has as much and more for you.

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