

GEORGE MÜLLER

The Man of Infinite Prayer

"The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord."

Early Life and Dissipation (1805–1825)

George Müller was born in Prussia in 1805. Though raised on worldly principles, his youth quickly turned to a dark and destructive path. He became a habitual liar, a thief who defrauded his father, and an embezzler who misappropriated government funds. Sadly, the sudden shock of his mother's death when he was only fourteen failed to impact his hardened heart, and he continued headlong into rebellion.

By sixteen, George's careless behavior finally caught up with him. He was arrested for defrauding a hotel and spent several weeks in prison among common criminals. Yet, even this wake-up call did not change the path he was on. He later enrolled at Halle University to study divinity, not to serve God, but purely to secure a comfortable, respectable living. Instead of studying, he plunged back into a reckless lifestyle, funding his heavy drinking and vices by running up massive debts and pawning off his belongings.

The Turning Point: Conversion (1825)

Everything began to change one cold Saturday evening in November of 1825. George's close friend, Beta, invited him to a simple Christian meeting that was held at the home of a local tradesman named Wagner. George went along out of curiosity, but what he witnessed there shook him to his core: he watched a believer fall to his knees and pray with a level of raw sincerity he had never seen before.

That one evening became the turning point of George's entire life. A intense work of God's grace began in his heart, and he soon walked away from his wicked companions, turned his back on the taverns, and abandoned his habitual life of deceit. In their place, he began his new life, eagerly reading the Scriptures and committing himself to daily prayer. Though he still stumbled on occasion, the direction of his life had been forever changed.

Call to Missionary Work and Move to England (1826–1829)

As his faith deepened, George became convinced that God was calling him to missionary work. This decision deeply angered his father. In response, George made a radical choice: he refused to accept any more of his father's financial support, choosing instead to rely entirely on the Lord. In time, he saw God's faithful provision through unexpected teaching opportunities.

Desiring to go where he was needed most, he offered his services to the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews. A long delay followed, during which George faced a severe illness that left him physically incapacitated. Yet, even in this trial, God provided a way forward by granting him a permanent medical exemption from mandatory Prussian military service. With his path finally cleared, George safely arrived in London in March 1829 to study at the missionary seminary, mastering Hebrew and Chaldee while fastening his soul in diligent prayer.

Spiritual Awakening in Devonshire (1829)

Shortly after arriving in England, George fell dangerously ill. Instead of despairing, he was filled with immense spiritual joy and a complete willingness to submit to God's will.

To recover his strength, he traveled to the seaside town of Teignmouth, where he struck up a deep friendship with fellow laborer Henry Craik. During this period, George experienced a deep spiritual awakening as God impressed upon him that the Word of God alone must be his ultimate standard of truth. He wholeheartedly embraced the doctrines of grace, and his focus shifted from a passive longing for death to an eager anticipation of Christ's return. These deeply held convictions shaped the remainder of his ministry, leading him to embrace a simple, devoted life and to count it a privilege to endure poverty and reproach for the sake of Christ.

A Life Built on Knee-Work: His Prayer Life

The hallmark of George Müller's legacy was his radical, unwavering commitment to prayer. He resolved never to ask a single human being for money, food, or material assistance. Instead, he took every need, whether it was a single loaf of bread to feed hundreds of orphans or the massive funds that were required to build large orphan houses directly to the throne of God.

Conclusion

Müller's secret to an effective prayer life was simple yet profound: **he coupled prayer with deep scripture meditation.** He discovered that his prayers were most powerful when he first "fed his soul" on the Word of God until he was genuinely happy in the Lord. Only then would he begin to intercede on behalf of others. Over his lifetime, Müller recorded more than **50,000 specific answers to prayer**, thousands of which were answered on the exact day he asked. His life stood as a monument and living proof to a skeptical world that God is still alive, still listens, and is entirely faithful to provide for those who trust Him completely.