

In this survey we want to find out how Canadians feel about prayer – both in their everyday lives and as something that may happen in public. By “PRAYER” we mean requests for help, an expression of thanks or other communication addressed to God or an object of worship.

First we’d like to hear about your own experience with prayer.

1. Thinking back to when you grew up as a child -- up to the age of 12 or so – how often, if at all, did you pray privately:

Daily
Several times a week
About once a week
2-3 times a month
About once a month
Less than once a month
Hardly ever
Never

2. What about as a teenager? How often, if at all, did you pray privately:

Daily
Several times a week
About once a week
2-3 times a month
About once a month
Less than once a month
Hardly ever
Never

3. What about now? Thinking back over the last year, how often, if at all, have you:

[Rows] Randomize

Said table grace/given thanks for food
Meditated
Participated in prayer groups
Prayed privately/individually
Prayed in a church, synagogue or other place of worship
Attended religious services
Prayed privately with your family members

[Columns]

Never
Hardly ever
Less than once a month
About once a month
2-3 times a month
About once a week
Several times a week
Daily

4. With respect to God and prayer, do you believe:

There is a God who answers prayers
There is a God who does not answer prayers
God does not exist

(Non-prayers skip to policy section)

[Non-prayers defined as "never" to "prayed privately/individually" item at Q3]

IF YOU PRAY:

5. When you pray privately, how often do you pray:

[Rows]

At home
At a place of worship
Wherever you happen to be

[Columns]

Never
Seldom
Sometimes
Often

5b. When you pray privately, how often do you pray:

Standing
Sitting
Sitting cross-legged
Kneeling
Lying down
Walking

Driving
On-line
Listening to music
Some other circumstance [not to be specified]

[Columns]

Never
Seldom
Sometimes
Often

6. When you pray, do you mainly say prayers you have memorized, or mainly have a personal conversation with God or an object of worship?

Memorized prayers
Both memorized prayers and personal conversation
Personal conversation with God
Other (please specify)

7. Which of the following are the **three most important** purposes of prayer in your life:

[select up to three only]

To ask for forgiveness
To ask for help
To improve your own life
To help others
To express intentions
To seek intimacy with God
To seek God's guidance
To thank God
To find peace
To praise God

8. Do you feel your prayers are answered?

Never
Rarely
Sometimes
Often

Always

[Ask those who do not say "always" at Q8]

9. When your prayers aren't answered, which do you feel is the most important reason:

God is punishing you

It's not in God's plan

Your faith is not strong enough

God doesn't help those who don't help themselves

God doesn't respond to specific prayers

10. When you pray, how often do you experience the following?

[Rows] **(Randomize)**

A strong presence of God

A deep sense of peace and well-being

A definite answer to a specific prayer

Deeper insight into a spiritual or biblical truth

Feel led by God to perform some specific action

Feel strengthened to live life

A feeling that God is not listening to me

A feeling of despair and desolation

Doubts about whether or not there is a God who hears your prayers

[Columns]

Never

Seldom

Sometimes

Usually

11. In the past year have other people prayed for you

Yes – family

Yes – friends

Yes – my religious community

Yes – prayer groups that I don't know

No, don't know

12. If someone prayed for you, do you feel as if it helped?

Yes

No

Not sure

13. Have you ever prayed for people who have mistreated you?

- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- No

14. How accurately do the following describe you?

[Rows]

- My prayers are heard
- My prayers aren't directed toward a Supreme Being like God
- I often pray silently
- I often pray in the presence of others
- It's okay to ask God for material things
- I often pray for my family members
- I often pray with my family members
- I often pray for government leaders
- I often pray for people around the world
- I sometimes feel angry because my prayers have not been answered

[Columns]

- Not accurately at all
- Not very accurately
- Fairly accurately
- Very accurately

15. IF MARRIED OR IN A RELATIONSHIP:

Apart from table grace and worship services, how often do you and your partner pray together?

- Often
- Sometimes
- Seldom
- Never

16. IF YOU HAVE SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN:

Apart from table grace and worship services, how often do you and your child/children pray together?

- Often

Sometimes
Seldom
Never

Policy section [Ask everyone]

17. Over the last few years there has been much discussion and debate over the role of prayer in public life in Canada.

Here are some possible instances of public prayer. For each we'd like to know whether you find the following acceptable or unacceptable:

[Rows]

- A short non-denominational prayer at the start of your local municipal council meeting
- Having a prayer at a graduation ceremony
- Declaring a national day of prayer in Canada to encourage people to give thanks for our country and wisdom to our leaders
- Other people praying for you even when you didn't ask them to do it
- Having the word "God" in Canada's national anthem
- Before a movie at a theater, showing an advertisement encouraging people to pray
- Using the word "Christmas" in department store advertising around Dec 25th
- Providing churches and other places of prayer with tax free status
- Having a moment of silence before a sports event to honour someone who has died

[Columns]

- Very unacceptable
- Somewhat unacceptable
- Somewhat acceptable
- Very acceptable

18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

[Rows]

- Religion is important to me in my day to day life
- Reducing the presence of religion in our public life is a sign of progress in our society
- Because not all Canadians have the same religious beliefs, it is better not to have prayers said in public schools

[Columns]

Strongly disagree
Disagree
Agree
Strongly agree

19. When all's said and done, do you think that prayer....

Adds something to the lives of people who pray
Adds something to the life of our communities, country, and world
Adds something to your life

Yes
No

20. Which one of the following best describes your religion?

Roman Catholic
United Church
Anglican
Lutheran
Presbyterian
Baptist
Pentecostal
Other evangelical Christian
Other Christian
Muslim
Hindu
Jewish
Sikh
Buddhist
No religious identity
Other (please specify)

21. Some people say Canadians variously (1) embrace religion, (2) reject religion, or (3) are somewhere in between the two extremes.

Where would you be tend to locate yourself?

I am inclined to embrace religion
I am inclined to reject religion
I am somewhere in between

22. Do you see yourself as:

Spiritual but not religious
Religious and spiritual
Religious but not spiritual
Neither religious nor spiritual

23. Were you born:

In Canada

Elsewhere