

First Concern

Prayer is in many ways the criterion of the Christian life.
Prayer requires that we stand in God's presence with
open hands, naked and vulnerable,
proclaiming to ourselves and to others that
without God we can do nothing.

"This is difficult in a climate where the predominant counsel is
'Do your best and God will do the rest.'
When life is divided into 'our best' and 'God's rest,'
we have turned prayer into a last resort to be used only
when all our resources are depleted.

Then even the Lord has become the victim of our impatience.
"Discipleship does not mean to use God when we can
no longer function ourselves.
On the contrary, it means to recognize that
we do nothing at all, but that God can do everything through us.

As disciples, we find not some but all
of our strength, hope, courage, and confidence in God.
Therefore, prayer must be our first concern."

A reflection by Henri Nouwen