

# How does prayer make people feel?

## Survey data












The 2017 survey by Tearfund and Savanta ComRes asked 2,069 adults about prayer. The sample was weighted to represent the population of Great Britain.

One question asked people how often they pray.

- 51 per cent of people said they pray, at least sometimes.
- 26 per cent of Christians and 80 per cent of the non-religious said they never pray.

The survey then asked all the people who say they pray (1,060 people) some more questions about prayer.

The table below gives data for all those people who pray, Christians, Muslims and non-religious. (The sample sizes for the other religious traditions were too small to make meaningful comparison.)

Which of these statements, if any, describe how you usually feel after having prayed? Please select up to five		Total %	Christians %	Muslims %	No religion %
Reassured/hopeful		40	43	46	24
Peaceful/content		33	36	48	15
Strengthened		25	28	38	7
Unburdened/released		22	22	25	14
Close to God		19	21	58	1
No differently from before having prayed		18	16	8	33
Guided		13	13	29	8
Loved		12	14	19	3
Humbled		11	11	48	5
Happy/joyful		11	11	33	3
Convicted/challenged		2	2	1	1
<i>Number of people: all who pray</i>		<b>1,060</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>172</b>

## Thinking things through: interpreting data

Note that the Total column includes the people from other traditions.

- List the top six results for Christians, Muslims and non-religious. What do you notice? Compare this with the accounts of prayer for Christians and Muslims on pp. 12–13 and 16–17. Do these help with explaining the differences?
- What difference does it make that the sample size for Muslims is so much smaller?
- Remember that 80 per cent of non-religious do not pray. What conclusions can you come to about the impact of prayer on non-religious from this data?
- Read some of the prayers of the apostle Paul (Resource 7.1, book, p. 23). What might Paul say about how prayer makes Christians feel?

Source: Tearfund and Savanta ComRes (2017) [comresglobal.com/polls/tearfund-prayer-survey/](https://comresglobal.com/polls/tearfund-prayer-survey/)