

Why Christians Must Pray

“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.” (Luke 18:1, ESV)

“One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.” (Luke 18:1, NLT)

Introduction

Edward McKendree Bounds said this about prayer:

“Prayer concerns God, whose purposes and plans are conditioned on prayer. His will and His glory are bound up in praying.”

“When the church is in the condition of prayer, God’s cause always flourishes, and His kingdom on earth always triumphs. When the church fails to pray, God’s cause decays, and evil of every kind prevails.”

Few observant souls would deny that evil of every kind seems to be prevailing in our beloved country. Why is this so, if our God is able “to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think?” (Eph. 3:20) Could the answer be, **“You do not have, because you do not ask?”** (James 4:2)

There is no greater motivation for prayer than this: **Jesus lived a lifestyle of prayer**. He left us an example, so that we might **follow in His steps**. (1 Peter 2:21)

“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.” (Mark 1:35)

“...and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened.” (Luke 3:21)

“But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.” (Luke 5:16)

“In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.” (Luke 6:12)

Dr. Henry Blackaby writes in *Experiencing Prayer With Jesus – The Power of His Presence and Example*,

“At this critical time in history, we don’t need simply ‘more prayer’ from God’s people; we need specifically the kind of praying exemplified in the life of Christ.”

God desires a praying people and a people who will pray in union with Christ Who intercedes from heaven. God shapes the world through prayer and when God’s house on earth is a house of prayer, then God’s throne is busy with plans and interventions in the affairs of earth. The more praying there is in the world, the better the world will be and the mightier the forces of good will be against evil everywhere. God has declared that His house **will be a house of prayer.** (Isaiah 56:7; Mark 11:17)

Why must we pray?

1. God commands it.

“When you pray... (Matthew 6:5, repeated in 6:6 and 6:7)

“Pray then like this...” (Matthew 6:9)

“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.” (Luke 18:1)

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” (Col. 4:2)

“Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thess. 5:17)

2. Circumstances require it.

A. James killed by Herod and Peter arrested. (Acts 12:1-5)

“So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.” (v. 5)

B. The Apostle Paul imprisoned. (Phil. 1:12-13)

“for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance.” (Phil. 1:19)

C. We are to pray “in everything.” (Phil. 4:6-7)

3. The times demand it.

***“praying at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication.”
(Eph. 6:18)***

- A. These are times of difficulty. (2 Timothy 3:1)
- B. These are times of deception. (1 Timothy 4:1)
- C. These are times of danger. (1 Cor. 15:30, ESV)
- D. These are times of diligence in prayer. (Col. 4:2)

4. Spiritual warfare necessitates it.

- A. God’s kingdom is always vigorously opposed. (2 Cor. 4:1-6)
- B. Prayer is the primary way God’s kingdom advances. (Matt. 6:9-10)

5. Destiny is determined by it.

- A. God has given the earth to the children of man. (Psalm 115:16)
- B. God changed Jabez’s destiny because he prayed. (1 Chron. 4:9-10)

6. Nations can be preserved through it.

- A. God promises to preserve His people and their land through prayer.
(2 Chron. 7:14; Joel 2)
- B. God preserved Judah through Jehoshaphat’s prayer. (2 Chron. 20)