
Scripture:

Devotion — Colossians 4:2-4

Topic — 2 Chronicles 7:14, Luke 18:1-8

February
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Second Week

Theme — “A CALL TO PRAY”

Theme Song — “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Topic — “WHY DO WE PRAY?”

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Key Verse — “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18:1 NIV).

DEVOTION:

Quiet Music — “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Call to Worship — “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Prayer (brief) — The Lord’s Prayer [The Model Prayer] (Matthew 6:9b-13).

Hymn — “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

— *DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE* —

“BELIEVERS EXHORTED TO PRAY”

Chaos, calamity, and conflict plague this world we live in today because many of our leaders and their followers are uncanny and uncaring about the well-being of humanity. Rather than move this nation forward by speaking love, peace and justice for all, they move us backward with speeches of hate, and acts of malice and discord against races, which causes for a fallen and unfriendly world.

In Colossians 4:2-4, the Apostle Paul admonished the Colossians then, and this epistle applies to believers today, as we are the living epistles and should be devoting ourselves daily to prayer, which simply means for us to keep ourselves busy in prayer while giving constant attention to things that are going on around us, so that we don't use prayer only in times of emergencies. The Apostle Paul also wants us to keep an attitude of prayer, as he told the Thessalonians in his first letter to them 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.”

Now in this letter to the Colossians, Paul exhorts us to do three things when we pray.

1. **Pray with Diligence:** if we are to endure the pressures of the ungodly things happening in this world, we must pray with an attitude of persistence and perseverance.
2. **Pray with Awareness:** we must stay alert to all that is going on around us and pray with an attitude of Spiritual alertness, because Peter says in I Peter 5:8: “Our enemy the devil goes to and fro like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
3. **Pray with Gratitude:** we as believers should pray with thankfulness for God's blessings, because we know that the Lord will bless us with what we stand in need of and we will not be easily led astray by the lies and snares of the devil.

The Apostle Paul, locked up in a Roman prison, because he was proclaiming the mystery of Christ and because of his desire to continue proclaiming the mystery of Christ, asks for prayer not just for himself but for those who are proclaiming the

mystery of Christ and for those who have not yet joined in the family of faith.

Paul exhorts all believers to pray, because of the challenges we face when it comes to accomplishing spiritual service.

There are many reasons why we should pray; but the question is asked, Why Do We Pray? (See Topic Discussion)

— *TOPIC DISCUSSION* —

“WHY DO WE PRAY?”

King Solomon, an ancestor of Christ, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, answers this question in ways that teaches us to understand that we are not sufficient in ourselves.

Solomon, King David's Son, answered this question by saying, he prayed because God is always accessible to us and responds to specific situations. After the building of God's temple, Solomon held a dedication ceremony, where he spoke and prayed a lengthy public prayer, and in the central part of his prayer in 2 Chronicles 6:22-39, he asked God about specific situations in which the people of God might bring to Him in prayer by means of the temple.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God answers Solomon: “If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.”

This answer revealed the presence of God, His glory to all the people, and reassurance to Solomon that He would provide what they needed when they turn back to him.

In Luke 18:1-8, our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ answers this question in a twofold manner, always pray and don't faint. Jesus consistently taught His disciples new truths about the Kingdom of God, and He taught them about prayer and how to pray, even to the extent of providing a model prayer, which is recorded in its entirety in Matthew 6:9-13. Not only did He teach them, He was a model for the disciples to follow, because He always took time to pray, and prayed to His Father,

the same God Solomon prayed to.

Mornings, evenings and nights in a quiet selected place Jesus prayed, He also prayed in large public gatherings and many miracles took place. Major decisions in His life were preceded by prayer, even the choosing of His twelve disciples was made after a night of prayer. Before the hour when He would be crucified for the sins of the world, He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane for His followers. **Why Do We Pray?** Jesus answers this question and we as His followers of today will benefit from His answers.

In Luke 18:1, Jesus spoke a parable unto them to this end that men ought always pray and not faint.

Why Do We Pray? . . . We pray because Jesus says we should pray!

As Jesus taught on Kingdom's truths, He put great emphasis on prayer, seeing it as an essential component for dedicated Kingdom living; which includes being persistent in prayer with childlike faith.

Why Do We Pray? . . . Because Jesus says prayer works!

Jesus tells His disciples the parable of a widow who lived in a town where there was a judge who had no respect for God or cared about people. The widow had gone before this judge continuously for justice from her adversary, and the judge continually refused to hear her case. However this did not stop the widow, she was persistent and kept going before this unjust judge until she finally got justice.

Why Do We Pray? . . . Because Jesus says God is a just judge!

The fact Jesus points out in this parable is, the unjust judge gave justice to her because she never gave up, but just kept going before him. Now if an unjust judge would give justice, just know that the just God, who is omniscience, knowing all about our problems before we ask, but it is our persistency that moves Him.

The just God is omnipotent and He can do anything, but it is our childlike faith that activates His power.

When we follow the teaching of Jesus, as He taught His disciples in that era, we must remember that God's word tells us, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

We can answer the question, "**Why Do We Pray**" without any doubts or hesitation, because we have been taught by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we pray because of two main reasons:

1. Prayer is the contact of a living soul with God Yes my soul cries out often! Does yours?
2. It is only in prayer that we can surrender our problems completely to God and ask for His divine intervention Just a little talk with Him makes everything alright for me! What about you?

ASSIGNMENT —

If Jesus the divine one took all of His concerns to God, His Father, in prayer – the same God we call our heavenly Father when we pray – shouldn't we feel victorious when ending our prayer in Jesus name? Yes or No . . . Why?

— SEED THOUGHT —

*Prayer links an Infinite God to humble finite people . . .
When God responds, bad situations change . . .
Unexplained miracles occur*

Nothing is
Impossible
With
God