

A Journey in Discipleship

A Life of Prayer

A life of prayer runs counter to our culture of can-do, self-reliance

A life of prayer grows in a *counter*-culture
of need, helplessness, dependence & grace

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful & thankful”

- What is prayer?
- Why is prayer important?
- How to pray?
- What will generate this heart-felt devotion to pray?



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What Is Prayer???

Greek Lexicon: *a request for help made by speaking to a diety*

Why would you ask for help???.*....Need
you lack the resources within yourself*

In its simplest sense prayer is requesting God for desired help as an expression of your need

“Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of the Spirit, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.”
Westminster Catechism Q. 78



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Why Is Prayer Important???

Prayer is at the heart of why God created the universe

God's *will* is that we, his creatures should ask him for help

More

"The prayer of the upright is his delight." Prov. 15:8

God's *delight* is that his creatures should ask him for help

More

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest....Isaiah 62:6-7



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Why Is Prayer Important???

Prayer is at the heart of why God created the universe

Why does God delight in your asking for help...in giving him no rest??

God's very nature as a *Giver*...

...Because God is a loving, Eternal Community, who from all eternity has delighted in giving glory, honor and love to one another...it's his nature to want us to enter into that love and enjoy his giving

“And God is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.” Acts 17:25



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Why Is Prayer Important???

Prayer is at the heart of why God created the universe

Why does God delight in your asking for help...in giving him no rest??

God's very nature as a totally Self-Sufficient Giver

Philippians 4:19-20 "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

God is gloriously rich in who He is....His very being is so full, so complete, so self-sufficient, that He overflows as a Giver

God ordains prayer because He wants us to see Him as gloriously self-sufficient and to glorify Him by asking & receiving



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Why Is Prayer Important???

Prayer is at the heart of why God created the universe

Because He wants to receive glory as the gloriously self-sufficient God who delights to give in response to the request of His people for desired help

Prayer is no small thing...it's at the heart of God's created order



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How Do Your Prayer???

Devote yourselves to prayer

- Prayer is not hit or miss, haphazard
- You take steps to see that prayer is a regular part of your life

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful

- Alert to distractions and hindrances
- Doing what you have to do to stay dependently connected with God's overflowing, glorious self-sufficiency

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How Do Your Prayer???

Taking steps to be “devoted” to prayer

1. When & Where?

If you want to walk in prayer with God all day long, you will need to linger in prayer in times of quiet communion with God

Decide on a place & time for daily times of solitude with God in prayer

2. How Long?

- If you are doing nothing...do something
- Start where you are & take another step



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How Do Your Prayer???

Taking steps to be “devoted” to prayer

3. How?

Read & Pray

- Let your prayers grow out of meditation on God’s word

Ask yourself in the moment

- What are you thinking about now?
- What’s really important to you in the moment?
- What’s bugging you?
- What are you facing today, this moment?
- What’s happening in your life right now?

Join with others in prayer



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What will generate this heart-felt delight & devotion to prayer?

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful & thankful.”

You give thanks every time you pray “In Jesus’ Name”

...every prayer is based on blood-bought grace

***John 16:23-24** 23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

The only thing that will change your heart is the wonder of this self-sufficient God who set aside the glory of his riches and became a man – common rabbi...crucified criminal - so you could forever enjoy sharing in his overflowing grace as he glorifies himself in giving

God, give me more of yourself!

