

Rock-Solid

Part 7

Colossians 2:6 - 8 "...having been deeply rooted, being built up and firmly established"

PRAYER'S PURPOSE

Prayer is, at its root, simply **PAYING ATTENTION TO GOD**

How do we pay attention to God?

1. A deliberate reading of **SCRIPTURE** Romans 12:1 & 2
2. A deliberate strategy to **PRAY** Luke 5:12 – 16

A **SECRET** place **ALONE** with Him Shutting the doors to **DISTRACTIONS**

Why is a lack of continuous prayer sinful?

Damages our **RELATIONSHIP** with **GOD**

Why don't we pray?

Bottom line is we really do not believe that it **WORKS!**

Why don't we think it works?

We don't really know the one to whom we are praying. **OBJECT ISSUE**

Why is prayer so hard?

Satan **FEARS** the prayers of the saints above all else so he obstructs the process

PRAYER'S PRIORITY

- Luke 3:21 & 22** Prayer **ENGAGES** the Triune God
- Luke 5:15 & 16** Prayer is always the **PRIORITY**
- Luke 6:12 – 16** Prayer provides clear **DIRECTION** from the Father
- Luke 9:28 & 29** Prayer **POSITIONS** us to listen to Him
- Luke 11:1 – 4** Prayer **AFFIRMS** God's place on His throne
- Luke 22:31 – 32** Prayer **THWARTS** temptation
- Luke 23:34** Prayer **PREPARES** our heart to forgive

PRAYER'S PRIVILEGE

Write out your plan to **PAY ATTENTION** to God by meditating attentively on the Word and creating your wilderness environment for uninterrupted prayer.

PRAYER'S POSSIBILITIES

James 5:16 - fervent prayer; Romans 12 - 12:12 initiative; Psalm 145:18 - 21

Auburn Grace Community Church – July 17th, 2022

Life Group Discussion Questions – July 17, 2022

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit...*

DISCOVER

1. What is prayer and why should we yearn to pray? In paying attention to God, what is accomplished? Describe some of the ways you pay attention to God.
2. During and after prayer, what are some of the impacts on your heart and life? Christians say that prayer works. What is accomplished through prayer? Critics of Christians emphatically say they don't want 'thoughts and prayers'. How can we respond in love? How do you think Jesus would respond? Should we pray for those who don't want prayer? Explain your reasoning.
3. What are some reasons that we become lax in our prayer life? Have you ever wondered if God was listening? Why can we be confident that God hears our prayers even if the response feels like silence? Is it a sin to fall away from spending time with God in prayer? What keeps you coming back to God in prayer?

EXPLORE

1. Read Matthew 6:1-8 Have you ever envied those whose prayers seemed like flowing words of poetry? The talent of beautiful speech is very good. Why might our pleadings and utterances be just as important to God and ourselves? What are some common times of the day and places that you connect with God in prayer?
2. Read Luke 5:15-16. Why did Jesus make prayer and time with the Father such a priority? Why was it not selfish of Jesus to walk away from the crowds to have His quiet time?
3. Read James 5:16. What can be accomplished by prayer? Isaiah 30:21 says "Your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it" whenever you turn to the right or to the left." When has prayer helped you stay on the right path or to change direction?
4. Read Mark 11:25-26. If you have struggled with forgiving someone in life, then how does this scripture pierce your heart? Describe a time when you felt closer to God after reconciling with a friend or family member.

EXPERIENCE

1. Describe why God would want time with you, not with someone else, but with you. Keep in mind 1 John 4:19 "We love, because He first loved us."
2. Jesus didn't think it to be a burden to spend time with the Father in prayer. Why do we allow prayer to be burdensome, at times? What would have to change for you to experience prayer as thirst quenching?

PRAY

Pray... 'Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

Action... Write out your plan for paying attention to God by meditating attentively on the Word and creating your environment for uninterrupted prayer.