

WHY PRAY?

Becoming God's Friend

Discussion Guide

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"The Importance & Purpose of Prayer"

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Genesis 1:28, Matthew 11:12

Introduction: Thus far in our study of prayer we have examined both the invitation of the Father to come to Him with all our needs as well as the privilege of praying powerfully in Jesus name. We have considered the opportunity to become a friend of God and recognized that, at the very least, this involves being concerned with God's goals. Still we have not answered the question, "But why pray in the first place?" This is the topic of this study: what is the purpose of prayer and why is it so important?

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xx (NASB)

Sermon Outline

I. Reasons Often Given for the Purpose of Prayer

- A. Prayer recognizes our dependency on God
- B. Prayer calms our spirit and helps focus our minds in times of trouble
- C. God commands us to pray, so we ought to do so
- D. Prayer is a spiritual discipline that aids our spiritual growth and development
- E. Prayer is a means of grace, benefiting us regardless of specific answers

II. Biblical Truths About Intercessory Prayer

- A. Men ought always to pray and not to faint
- B. Up until now you have ask for nothing in My name, ask that you may receive
- C. All authority is given unto Me in heaven and on earth
- D. You do not have because you do not ask
- E. When you do ask you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives
- F. This kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting

III. Jesus' Teaches that We Should Pray Expecting Answers

- A. If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed
- B. Ask so that you may bear much fruit, and that your fruit should last
- C. Ask so that the Father may be glorified in the Son
- D. Ask so that your joy will be full
- E. Ask so that God's will will be done here on earth as it is in heaven

Conclusion: I have only partially answered the question, "Why pray?" In this study we have seen from Scripture that the chief purpose of prayer is to receive specific answers from God regarding specific kingdom needs her on earth. We are to pray because God is listening, because it matters, because He will answer and take action and the impact will have eternal consequences. We still need to answer the question, "Why pray if God is only going to do His will. Won't He do that anyway? Why must I ask for what He already plans to do?" These are the questions we will take up next time.



Discussion Questions

1.) xx

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2.) xx

3.) xx

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5.) xx

6.) xx

7.) xx

MEMORY VERSES

*"If you abide in Me,
and My words abide in
you, ask whatever you
wish, and it will be
done for you."*

John 15: 7 (NASB)

*Therefore humble
yourselves under the
mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you
at the proper time, ⁷
casting all your
anxiety on Him,
because He cares for
you.*

I Peter 5: 6-7 (NASB)

