

**Luke 18:1** And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

**1 Timothy 2:8** I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

## Our Subject today is strong reasons why we should pray.

Prayer should be seen as the **most important subject in our daily walk** with the Lord. All other subjects are second to it, Reading the Bible Keeping the Lords Day, Hearing sermons , attending public worship. Going to the table of the Lord. All of these are of the upmost importance, **but none of them are so vital as private prayer.**

## Let's consider some reasons Prayer is so very important.

*Prayer is absolutely needful to a man's salvation.* It's very clear that no man is saved by His prayers. Salvation is a free gift, All who Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Salvation is Not of ourselves lest we should boast. Yet we can say that although our prayer is not what saves us. How Can a man be saved who has a heart that doesn't even respond saying, Lord Forgive me or Lord save me. Even Saul of Tarsus when the Lord spoke on the Road to Damascus as he was trembling and astonished. He **asked what do you want me to do?** He was moved to ask- what if he made absolutely no response. He did ask and he was told - Arise and go to the city it will be told you what to do. Ananias was sent unto Him at the street called Strait. Inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus for behold he is praying. Acts 9:11 **God has no still born Children**, as soon as any are quickened by his grace, they cry unto him; prayer is the breath of a regenerate man and shows him to be alive. In the same way the cry of a newborn baby shows there is life. I can't see how anyone can claim to be alive in Christ and never have prayed. It's not absolutely needful that a person must read the Bible before they can come unto salvation A man may have no learning and unable to read. But he can still be saved. Or a man may be totally blind, yet he can still be saved. It's not absolutely necessary a man hear the public preaching of the Gospel. What if he is sick in bed and can't possibly go to where the Gospel is preached. What if he is deaf. He may still be saved. But the same thing cannot be said about prayer. It is absolutely needful that a man respond to grace and pray. Even the thief upon

the cross- next to Jesus prayed LORD REMEMBER ME. *“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”* (Luke 23:43, KJV) HE prayed and He was saved.

If a person is hungry, they cannot get someone to eat on our behalf. – or- If they are tired, they can't get someone to have a rest on our behalf. No one can ask another person to learn the alphabet for them. **All these things must be done by ourselves.** No matter who we are we have to do these things for ourselves, or they will not get done. **It is the very same with our soul** there are certain things that are absolutely needed to the souls wellbeing and health. **Each individual must attend to these things for them self.** Each must repent for Himself. Each one must speak to God and pray for themselves. You must do it yourself nobody can do it for you. Each one of us must continue to cry out to our Lord Day and night . *“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?”* (Luke 18:7, KJV) Prayer is the very life-breath of true Christianity. Here it is that Christianity begins. Here it flourishes. Here it decays. Oh Watch and pray, neglect of prayer weakens us and temptation comes when we are weak. (Mat 26:40-41.)

Think of all Gods Commands to pray – pray without ceasing, praying always., in everything give thanks, We must pray on earth or we will never praise in heaven. To sum it up **to be prayerless** is to be without God without Christ, without grace, without hope and without heaven.

## Prayer is one of the surest marks of a true Christian.

Every one born again prays **this is the common mark of a true believer.** “They cry unto Him day and night.” *Luke 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*

The Holy Spirit who makes them new creatures works in them **the reality they are Adopted** and the cry ABBA Father. *Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.* When we are born again we **are quickened and given a voice.** We see our need for mercy and grace, we feel our emptiness and weakness. We must pray.

As we search the scriptures for notable men who didn't pray, we can't find any.

What we do find is that the **Godly call upon the Father**, they call upon Jesus Christ. Then we notice that the **ungodly are the ones who call not upon the Lord.** Psalms

**14:4** Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread **and do not call upon the LORD?**

**When we look at the lives of many eminent Christians** some are rich some are poor some educated some uneducated some, Baptists, some Presbyterians, some Calvinists, some arminianists. **But one thing they all have in common is they all pray.**

We know some pray without sincerity and without heart. We are not saying that prayer proves anything about the condition of the soul. But what we are saying with great certainty that **no prayer is a clear proof the person is not yet a true Christian.** The prayerless seem to have no gratitude for forgiveness and cleansing No desire for fellowship with the Lord. They may be able to quote many scriptures and may know so much bible truth. He may talk very confidently about hope and faith. But be assured it's all vain talk if he does not pray if there is no living relationship with the Lord.

A man may preach and yet we don't know His motives, another may write books from false motives. He may do many good works and yet still be a Judas. **But man seldom goes into His room and closes the door and pours his heart out to the Lord in secret unless He is sincere.**

The stamp of prayer is the best proof of true conversion. Prayer flowing from a broken and contrite heart is a real proof we are the Lords.

**There is no duty and privilege in Christianity so neglected as private prayer.**

Almost any church is packed when there is a special program. **But what about the prayer meeting sadly it's not packed.** If anything, its poorly attended. Then what about **personal and private prayer** it is yet even more neglected. **Very many who go to church never pray privately.** Private prayer is one of those things that no one sees and therefore there is a great temptation to leave it undone.

When you pray, we pray to our **father who is in heaven.** I've heard people praying very fervently, never mentioning God their whole prayer is **binding satan and his Manoeuvres.** Others make proclamations and decrees . I decree blessing.... I declare Health ... But that's not prayer. **Prayer is coming to the Father and making petition.**

Asking for His help and mercy and intervention. It is **the presenting of our requests to God, either verbally or by lifting up our hearts to him, and breathing out our desires before him.**

*“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” (Psalms 55:22, KJV)* even all your cares, businesses, travails, and troubles.

Some think if they thank God for healing and health and if they are positive enough, they will attract healing. **Prayer is not the power of positive thinking.** Even the **dictionary definition** of prayer is *something attained by entreaty. A solemn request for help and an expression of thanks to God.*

**Nor is prayer the popular saying that says,** “don’t tell God about your need tell your need about God.” We are guided by scripture- *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Philippians 4:6, KJV)* Let your *need, poverty, want, hardship, neediness be known to God.*

**A deep sense of need is essential to prayer.** Why cry, if there are **no needs** to be met, **no misery** to remove— why pray if **no help needed?** All men stand in need; **but to pray truly,** we must feel it— be conscious of it. It must be on our heart as vital and important. How can we say we prayed, and when asked what we prayed, we say I can’t remember!

**Prayer realises that we are unable to change the situation in our strength.** We must feel our entire dependence upon God. Our confidence must be in Him alone.

**Earnestness in Prayer.** *V16...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much, “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.” (James 5:16-17, KJV)*

He who prays must be a **righteous man;** not righteous in an absolute sense but **righteous in a gospel sense;** not loving nor approving of any iniquity. *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear my prayer,* Psa 66:18.

Further, the prayer itself must be a fervent, it must be **a pouring out of the heart to God;** and it must **proceed from a sincere faith.** Such prayer avails much. It is of great advantage to us, it is very **beneficial to our friends and family** and we are assured of its being acceptable to God.

**Arrow prayers.** It's true our heart can be in your prayer even while dressing, or showering – o any daily activity. What is important is the heart must be in our prayer if not the prayer its nothing more than lip service and not acceptable to God. We are talking about emergency prayers from the heart, prayers trusting and full of faith, there is a place for short arrow prayers, **We see examples in the Bible.**

Nehemiah the kings cup bearer is sad in His presence and the King says you are not sick this is nothing but sorrow of the heart. Nehemiah became dreadfully afraid. He could have easily been put to death.. He says oh King live forever. He says why should I not be sad when the city of our father's tombs lie in waste and the gates have been burned with fire. **Then the King said what do you request?** SO I PRAYED TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN- He did not go out of the room; he did not kneel down upon the carpet; he uttered no words; but he pleaded to God for his influence and assistance. Most likely silently in his heart - We must also do this offe up aow payers in all the pressures of the day. If we are in a very difficult situation, or in danger, or under a cloud, **we are to lift up our hearts to him.** In all our ways we are commanded **to acknowledge the Lord, and he will direct our steps.** This is how we will get strength to conquer our many enemies and to bear our heavy trials and perform our difficult duties. *Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*

**But also, we do well to have dedicated times of prayer.** We learn from the Example of our Lord. *He withdrew at times and was alone in prayer. He sometimes spent all night in prayer. He sometimes prayed early in the morning.* **Scripture encourages us** - *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Mathew 6:6*

Keep the altar of **private prayer burning.** This is the very life of all our faith. *"The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out."* Leviticus 6:13. **Our prayers in public** borrow their fires here, Our effectiveness in public is greatly helped by private prayer. therefore let this burn well. **Secret devotion is the very essence, evidence, and barometer, of vital and real Christianity.**

Matthew Henry has remarked that "a house without prayer is like a house without a roof." And who could live in such an exposed place?

**I seek the Lord in prayer my eyes look to Him first before I look to anything else.** My confidence and Hope should be in Him. He is **the great burden bearer,** He is

**always near.** He says come unto me and I will give you rest. He hears the cry of the righteous.

## Prayer when reading the Bible.

There is one prayer very helpful and important, and that is praying for **heavenly light**, and for the **teaching of the Divine Spirit**, *"O Lord, open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law. "psalm 119:18 - "Send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me. "Psalm 43:3.* It's important to pray much in searching, and reading the Holy Scriptures. *"I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation (prayer- devotion and reflection)."* (Psalms 119:99, KJV)

Some people read Bible every day, they can even quote verse after verse, or even chapter after chapter. Yet unless we ask God to teach us, and to write it on your heart by the Holy Spirit — and make us doers of His word. it will profit you little. \* **blind Alic-** a blind man could quote so much scripture from memory. But sadly he was not only blind in his body he was spiritually blind. The scripture he knew by heart never directed his steps. He never knew the Lord, *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* (John 17:3, KJV)

We must be careful not to neglect to pray whenever we take the Bible in our hand. It is only in this way that you will find real profit and comfort in reading it. Pray that you may understand whatever you read. If you read about one who committed sin — then pray that the grace of God may preserve you, that you may never fall into the same snare. **There is no part of Scripture that you cannot in some way turn into prayer**, and the more we do this, the more you will find it like a well of living water. We will never fail to find help and refreshment from it.

When we pray for understanding it's not simply for the sake of knowledge and satisfying curiosity. **Rather it's a desire for enlightened** understanding, that he may learn God's commandments, and become obedient unto them. It's a Desire to be transformed and become more like Him. It's a desire to please Him more. Here lies the test- will the hypocrite pray always. Will the Luke warm pray always. Will the Sunday only Christian pray always. They may pray a little here and

there. BUT GODS CHILDREN PRAY always. As the Lungs require oxygen the True Child of God must pray. Its His native language. He can not be silent.