

Core Value: Foundational Prayer

Part 1: What is Prayer?

Expression, with or without word, of your dependence upon, desperation for, and delight in God and His provision for your life or another's life; for us and others to be conformed to His image and holiness, to be empowered by the fullness of His Spirit, to pursue the supernatural (salvation, deliverance from evil forces, the victory over the flesh and temptation).

Prayer= setting your mind on things above, bending your will in submission before God, acknowledging our total dependence on God

Part 2: What Causes Us to Pray?

The question I have often asked is *why do we not pray, or why do we not want to pray, even when we know that God hears, answers, and blesses the man who prays the right thing in the right spirit for the right reasons?*

As I look through the Scriptures I discover the context of the Scriptures revealing powerfully praying people. When people desire to communicate with God and “cry out” for His hand to move, I believe we see one or more of these three things going on:

1. There is a **Crisis to Consider** that has led the people to cry out in prayer- almost everyone Jesus met- Samaritan woman, Bartimaeus, Stephen near his death, Paul in prison, etc..or someone who has lost their child to cancer, catastrophe, and financial ruin. People are moved to pray when they are in the storm. An Awareness of the Christian's Life Adversity
2. There is a **Commitment to Christ** that results in increased excitement to pray for God to continue to move through salvation, deliverance, overcoming. Simply, there was a deeply instilled conviction that Christ and His cause are BETTER!- Acts 2, early church, The Prayers of Paul in the Epistles. An Awareness of Christ's Supremacy

3. There is a **Concern for Character** when people are confronted by the holiness of God and His greatness and they are broken and brought low and humbled by their deficiency before a Holy but loving God who Has bestowed grace and mercy upon them (Paul on the road to Damascus, Isaiah 6). An Awareness of Our Sinfulness

Part 3: How Should We Pray? Colossians 4:2-4

Colossians 4:2-4- Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

1. Steadfast Prayer- v. 2

1 Thess. 5:17- “pray without ceasing”-

Daniel 6:10- “When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.”

James 4:2- “You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.”

Luke 18:1-8.

2. Watchful Prayer- v. 2

a. Watchful of the Lord's Glory

Micah 7:7- “But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.”

Prayer is about watching and waiting!

b. Watchful of the Lord's Return

Mark 13:35-37- “Therefore stay awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning-- 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

c. Watchful of Temptation

Mark 14:34-38- “And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? 38 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

d. Watchful of the Adversary

1 Peter 5:8- “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

e. Watchful of Dead Works

Revelation 3:2-3- “Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.”

f. Watchful for Missional Opportunities

Ephesians 6:18-20- ...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

3. Thankful Prayer- v. 2

Ephesians 5:4- “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.”

Phil. 4:6- “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

4. Missional Prayer- vv. 3-4

Ephesians 6:18-20- ...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Part 4: Activating Powerful Prayer: John 14:12-14

¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

1. Know the Truth- “Truly, Truly”

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

Prayer is to Faith as Oxygen is to fire.

2. Believe the Truth- “Whoever believes in me”

James 1:5-7—“But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. *But let him ask in faith* without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea

driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord.”

Hebrews 11:6—“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

3. **Act on the Truth- “will do the works I do”**

James 5:16- The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Then pray:

In the Will of God the Father- v. 13 “That the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

In the Name of God the Son- v. 13-14 “in my name”

Jesus died that our prayers may be answered.

In the Strength of God the Spirit- v. 12 “because I am going to the Father”= v. 16, 26

- **John 15:16** “Whatever you ask of the Father”
- **John 16:23** “If you will ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you in My name.”
- **John 16:24** “Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.”
- **John 16:26** “In that day you will ask in My name.”

Our desire is to get prayer into the **DNA** of the individual, family, and church. I came up with an acrostic based on your response and others as to why we should pray. I know you or the church as a whole may not want to use this or pursue the ideas, but at the very least I may use it personally and with the student ministry:

Why we need to pray (**getting prayer into our DNA**):

We need our lives, our families, our church:

D- Directed by God- *Faithful and wise choices resulting from God’s daily guidance*

Proverbs 3:5-6- “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

N- Needful of God- *Constant dependence upon the person and presence of God*

Psalms 42:1- “As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

A- Authentic for God- *Genuine spiritual growth displayed through obedience*

Colossians 1:9-10- “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

In order to get this kind of prayer into the DNA of the church, we need something that is more lifestyle than program driven.