

SERMON NOTES

PRAY FIRST

December 31, 2017

Prayer is....

1. Communicating with God.
2. Fellowship with God.
 - Your faith will not be stronger than your fellowship with God.

Prayer Goals:

1. Find a time to pray.
2. Find a place to pray.
3. Take the Bible with you to pray.

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.

- Jesus taught on prayer more than anything else.
- Jesus was a product of His prayer life.
- God gives strategies to conquer the enemy and overcome your circumstances through prayer and fasting.
- Inconsistency does not bring results. Praying daily brings results.
- Prayerlessness is a sin. A life without prayer is a sin because you will not have the power to say no to temptation. Prayer = Power!
- Prayer is a process.
- The foundation for success is prayer.

Attributes of Prayer:

1. Always be joyful!

- Ask God to show you how to grow in our prayer life.
- Always have an attitude of joy for your prayers to work.
- Your attitude is connected to your prayers.

2. Never stop praying!

- Disciples saw the power that came from Jesus' prayer life.
- The only question that the disciples asked Jesus was to teach them how to pray.

3. Always be thankful!

- Choose to walk by faith and not by sight.
- Choose to bring a sacrifice of praise unto the Lord.

I Thessalonians 5:16 (CEV)

¹⁶ Always be joyful.

Luke 11:1-4 (NKJV)

¹Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

² So He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

³ Give us day by day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

- God wants us to pray His word!

Revelation 8:1-4 (NKJV)

¹When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. ³ Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

- Prayers for the saints silenced heaven.
- Angels carry your prayers to heave and then descend with the answers.
- Heaven recognized your prayer life.

How To Get A Greater Prayer Life:

1. Know who God is.

- The Lord's Prayer is the nature of God.

2. Know what God said.

- Know God's promises and His word.

3. Know how God works.

- Your prayer life will go to a new level.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is prayer?

2. How do you get a greater prayer life?