

Vertical Volume One Part #1 – Why Pray?

Matthew 6:9-13 – ⁹“This, then, is how you should pray: ”“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

Series Summary

This sermon series will help each Christian take their prayer life to the next level whether they are a beginner or a seasoned Christian. It will focus upon helping each person understand why we need to pray and then promote a desire to pray for themselves and others with the confidence that God will answer their prayers.

Big Idea

The Big Idea for this sermon is: **Prayer Moves the Heart of God which causes God to Move the Heart of Men!** Why should we pray is a question that lies at the heart of modern day Christians who are increasingly becoming influenced by a culture that promotes self-centeredness over God-centeredness. We are in desperate need of Christians that lift up their prayers and petitions on behalf of themselves and others to the heavenly Father.

Four Reasons Why We Pray

Define Prayer – Prayer is intentionally communicating with God!

- **Key Point** – We define prayer with a working definition meaning that it is an action that God has called to be on-going in our lives on a daily basis. It is being intentional in our communication with God. Even if we do not have the words to utter the Bible reminds us that the Holy Spirit will speak on our behalf.

Reason #1 – We Are Commanded to Pray

- **Colossians 4:2**
- **Matthew 6:9**
- **Key Point** – We read through the Lord’s Prayer as recorded in Luke and Matthew and we understand that Jesus is speaking to His followers in a very powerful way. He is teaching us how to pray, giving us a model to go by, and he starts out by reminding us that prayer is not an option in a believers life, it is a command.

Reason #2 – Heaven and Hell are Hanging in the Balance

- **Luke 11:9-10**
- **James 5:16**
- **Key Point** – Luke 11 is a powerful passage of Scripture that is quoted by Christians and non-Christians alike when they want something and try to use prayer as a tool to achieve their desires. This passage reminds us of three imperative verbs which means that each verb carries with it the meaning of an on-going action. We more correctly read this passage in this manner: **Keep on Asking, Keep on Seeking, and Keep on Knocking.** We are to be persistent in our prayers and to continue lifting them up to God especially when it comes to the point of praying for the salvation of others. Your prayer matters because for some one out there, heaven and hell is hanging in the balance.

Reason #3 – Prayer Brings Joy

- **John 16:24**
- **Key Point** – It is a fact that the Christian that centers their life on prayer and seeking the Lord’s face will experience transformation in their lives. This transformation will bring joy that has never been felt before.

Reason #4 – Prayer Glorifies God

- **Psalm 50:15**
- **Key Point** – Our only purpose in this life is to glorify God with the life that we have been given. We understand that not only our lives glorify God but our prayers bring Him glory and honor as well.

Question to Consider

- (1) Define prayer in your own words. Why is prayer important in the life of a Christian?
- (2) How can you make your prayer life more vibrant, effective, and meaningful?

Memory Verse

- **James 5:16** – Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Big Challenge

- (1) Attend the Prayer Service on May 01 at 6:30 p.m.
- (2) Take a “Prayer Walk” in your neighborhood this week, praying over your neighbors, their unknown needs, and their property.

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