

Why Pray?

1. We pray because we love God. We spend time with God in prayer and communion because we love him. Just as a man and woman in love desire to be together and communicate, so we - if we love God - will desire to be with Him and to fellowship with Him in proportion to our love for Him.

2. We pray because we depend on God. God is our source. He is our life (Colossians 3:4). Through prayer we receive the comfort, the strength and all the other resources that we need in life - both naturally and spiritually. Prayer - relationship to God - is as necessary to the spiritual life as air to the natural life.

3. We need to pray in order to resist temptation. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." (Mt. 26:41). Much sin is the result of the sin of prayerlessness. Through lack of prayer, we are weak, others are weaker and Satan gains the advantage in our lives.

4. We need to pray because it is necessary for men to invite God to act in salvation. God gave the earth to Adam and his descendants. We must invite God to work here. If no-one invites God to work here, Satan (the god of this world through man's universal rebellion - 2 Corinthians 4:4) will dominate the affairs of men and eventually the judgment of God will come. By inviting God often and specifically, multitudes can be saved that would otherwise be lost.

5. We need to pray because God commands us to pray. "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2). "Then he [Jesus] spoke a parable to them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not lose heart." (Luke 18:1). The need to pray is as great as the authority of God which commands us: "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is so vital to all that God wants to do on the earth, and so essential to us, that God commands us to do it all the time. We should even deny ourselves sleep and food at times in order to pray more and with greater power. (Matthew 6:16; Luke 6:12; Luke 21:36; Colossians 4:2; 2 Corinthians 11:27).

6. We pray because Jesus Christ, our model, prayed constantly Jesus was always in perfect communion with the Father. He always knew what the Father wanted, what the Father was saying and what the Father was doing. Jesus also took time to pray alone at night, in the morning before others were up (Mark 1:35), in times of crisis and temptation (Matthew 26:36, 39, 42). If the Son of God needed to pray, how much more we need it if we are going to be like Him.

Additional Verses on Prayer

- **John 15:7**

But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted!

- **Luke 18:1**

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

- **Ephesians 6:18**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

- **Romans 8:26-27**

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Principles in Prayer

1. Depend on the Holy Spirit.
2. Realize who you are in Christ, and on what basis God will hear you.
3. It is good to begin your prayer with thanksgiving and praise.
4. Worship God.
5. Pray the Word.
6. Ask God for definite things that you want (Psalm 37:4)
7. Allow God to lead you to pray for others
8. Thank God for the results of prayer