

**WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?  
LUKE 18:1-8**

**Introduction**

E.M. Bounds, who was a great preacher back in the Civil War era and was considered to be a great man of prayer, is quoted as saying *“Spiritual work is taxing work, and men are loathe to do it. Praying, true praying costs an outlay of serious attention and of time, which flesh and blood do not relish.”*

Praying wars against the flesh and our flesh wars against praying. Nevertheless, if we are to have **victory over spiritual strongholds, protection from the attacks of Satan and effectiveness in evangelism**, we must have earnest, specific, and concentrated prayer.

We need to be involved praying individually as well as corporately.

There is only one sure way to learn how to pray more effectively—**by praying!**

E.M. Bounds is also quoted as saying, *“Prayer is not learned in a classroom, but in the closet.”*

While I understand what he meant by that, it doesn’t mean we can’t learn something about prayer in a classroom. What it does mean is that all the study of prayer in the world is useless unless we put it into practice—that is, unless we pray!

*Jeremiah 33:3—“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”*

I brought a lesson in Sunday School a few weeks ago on *Praying In Agreement* as a Church. God has done so much for us lately in the matter of answering our prayers. I felt led, for the next few weeks at least, to spend more time on the topic of prayer here in our Sunday School hour.

This morning I want us to begin by answering the question – *“Why Should We Pray?”*

This is not an exhaustive look at this subject by any means. I just want to look at some of the primary reasons this morning!

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**I. WE SHOULD PRAY BECAUSE PRAYER GLORIFIES GOD!**  
*John 14:13—“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*

*1 Corinthians 10:31—“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

If this is not the purpose of **everything** we do in life, we need to stop and correct our motives!

*Why should we pray? BECAUSE PRAYER GLORIFIES GOD...*

**II. WE SHOULD PRAY BECAUSE PRAYER IS A PRIVILEGE AND HONOR!**

What a privilege it is to have both a relationship as well as a communication that flows out of that relationship with the Creator of all things!

*1 John 3:1—“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”*

*Ephesians 2:18-19—“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;”*

*Ephesians 3:12—“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.”*

*Hebrews 4:14-16—“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

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**III. WE SHOULD PRAY BECAUSE IT IS A COMMAND AND RESPONSIBILITY!**

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

Jesus didn't just make this statement, He lived it! Think with me about the part that prayer played in the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

He was the Creator, all powerful, all wise, God manifested in the flesh, King of kings, and Lord of lords and still He found prayer to be indispensable and very much necessary while He was here on the earth and even now as He is in heaven. If prayer was important to such a one as Christ, how much more should prayer mean to us!?

**Jesus's earthly ministry began in prayer.** *Luke 3:21-22–“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, **and praying**, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”*

Another time in His early ministry, in Mark 1:35 it says, “*And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*”

Again In Luke 5:16, when a multitude came to Him hoping to hear Him teach and be healed by Him, the Bible says, “. . . *he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.*”

Also, in Luke 6:12, prior to choosing His disciples, the Bible says, “. . . *that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*”

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The Apostle Paul said in *1 Thessalonians 5:17–“Pray without ceasing.”*

*Ephesians 6:18–“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

We are soldiers engaged in a spiritual war (Ephesians 6:10-18). To neglect the duties of our Commander-in-Chief and to fail to keep in communication with Him in the midst of the battles we face is dereliction of our duty!

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**IV. WE SHOULD PRAY BECAUSE IT HELPS US TO CONFORM OUR WILL TO GOD'S WILL!**

*Matthew 26:39–“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”*

It is true that “*prayer changes things.*” However it is equally true that “*prayer changes us.*” If it doesn't, something is wrong.

When we humble ourselves before God and pray, we receive: A. Guidance!

B. Comfort!

C. Confirmation!

D. Encouragement!

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#### V. WE SHOULD PRAY SO THAT WE DO NOT SIN!

Samuel told Israel in *1 Samuel 12:23*—“*Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.*”

Neglect of prayer is selfish, slothful, and sinful! It is a form of pride!

Jesus told his disciples to pray in *Matthew 6:13*—“*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*”

Neglect of prayer leaves us defenseless to withstand some of the spiritual attacks that will come!

#### Conclusion

The reasons to pray are many, but these that I've shared with you today are some of the greatest reasons that we need to pray!

How is your prayer life? Is it what you want it to be? A better question might be, is it what God wants it to be?

Let's take these reasons of why we need to pray and let God use them to make us better practitioners of prayer!