

## **A Lifestyle of Prayer**

Text: Various Date: 7-12-20 Service: SBC a.m.

### **Introduction**

Today, I am not going to teach you how to pray but I want to give you 5 reasons why you are to pray...

I. **PRAYING IS THE PRIMARY MARK OF THE BELIEVERS** (Acts 2:21; Acts 9:10-11)

II. **JESUS SAID, “MY HOUSE SHALL BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER.”** (Mark 11:15-17; Ephesians 2:19-22)

How important was prayer to Jesus? S. D. Gordon tells us, “It was not only HIS regular habit, but HIS resort in every emergency, however slight or serious. When perplexed HE prayed. When hard pressed by work HE prayed. When hungry for fellowship HE found it in prayer. HE chose HIS associates and received HIS messages upon HIS knees. If tempted, HE prayed. If criticized, HE prayed. If fatigued in body or wearied in spirit, HE had recourse to HIS one unailing habit of prayer. Prayer brought HIM unmeasured power at the beginning, and kept the flow unbroken and undiminished. There was no emergency, no difficulty, no necessity, and no temptation that would not yield to prayer.”

III. **WE DESPERATELY NEED GOD** (1 Cor.16:9; 1 Cor.3:3-4; James 4:8)

George Muller wrote, “It is a common temptation of Satan to make us give up the reading of the word and prayer when our enjoyment is gone; as if it were of no use to read the Scriptures when we do not enjoy them, and as if it were no use to pray when we have no spirit of prayer. The truth is that, in order to enjoy the Word, we ought to continue to read it, and the way to obtain a spirit of prayer is to continue praying. The less we read the Word of God, the less we desire to read it, and the less we pray, the less we desire to pray.”

#### IV. GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS POWER THROUGH PRAYER (Jer.33:3)

Prayer changes things! John Wesley wrote, “Give me 100 preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergy or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer!”

#### V. GOD COMMANDS US TO PRAY (1 Thess.5:17; Luke 18:1-8; 1 Tim.2:8)

##### Closing Comments

Helen Steiner Rice writes, “Pray? Why pray? What can prayer do? Praying really changes things, arranges life anew. It’s good for your digestion, gives peaceful sleep at night...and fills the grayest, gloomiest day-with rays of glowing light.”