

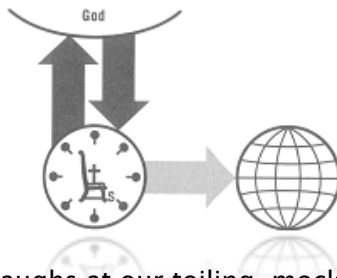
The Purpose of Prayer

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26:41

Introduction

Jesus set the perfect example of obedience in prayer. Although His day was filled from morning to night with many pressures and responsibilities – addressing crowds, healing the sick, granting private interviews, traveling, and training his disciples – He made prayer a top priority. If Jesus was so dependent on His fellowship in prayer alone with His Father, how much more you and I should spend time alone with God.



Someone once wisely said, “Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks our wisdom, but trembles when he sees the weakest saint on his knees.” Prayer is God’s appointed way of doing God’s work.

Why Prayer is Important

1. Why Pray?

John 14:3

I Thessalonians 5:17

Acts 4:23–33

Matthew 9:38

a. From these verses, identify at least 3 reasons for prayer.

2. Your Motive for prayer

Based on your personal experience, list at least 4 reasons you pray.

3. The Apostles’ Motive for prayer

Acts 4

a. What problems did the Apostles face and why did they not ask God to remove the persecution?

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b. For what did they pray? (verse 29) Why is this significant?

c. What was their real motive? (John 14:13)

4. God's Motives in Teaching Us About Prayer

John 3:5-8

John 4:23-24

a. In what form does God exist and what must happen to us before we can have fellowship with Him?

b. What kind of worship does He desire, and what is His delight? (Proverbs 15:18)

c. List some purposes of prayer from each of the following Bible references: Matthew 7:7, Matthew 26:41, Luke 18:1.

d. From your understanding of these passages, what do you think God wants you to realize about Him?

4. Prayer Meets the Heart's Needs

a. According to 2 Corinthians 3:5, what is the source of the Christian's sufficiency? How do you tap into that source?

b. Read Psalm 63. Note the elements of worship and write below the word or phrase that describes how we should worship God.

Personal Application

What conclusions can you now make concerning your relationship with God in prayer?

Begin a prayer list. Keep a record of the things for which you pray.