

We all know that prayer is important... we all know that we should pray more... but why?

➤ **Jesus gave us the example of a life of prayer:**

Matthew 14:23 (NKJV)

And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Mark 1:35 (NKJV)

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Luke 5:16 (NKJV)

So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 6:12 (NKJV)

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

➤ **Believers are to follow the example of our Lord:**

Matthew 6:5-7 (NKJV)

5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites...

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room...

7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do."

Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)

Pray without ceasing

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart

➤ **Foundation Scripture for the Series:**

Psalms 65:2 (NKJV)

O You who hear prayer,

To You all flesh will come.

- God's identity to us is wrapped up in the fact that _____
_____.
 - This separates our God from all others who are called deities, from those false gods who are worshipped by humanity. Our God actually hears our prayers.
 - Prayer is the _____ that God has _____ that allows us to interact with Him.
- **Three Purposes of Prayer: "Why should we pray?"**
1. _____
When there is a need; when you want God to do something for you; when you need God to provide, to change circumstances, and to act.
 2. _____
When there is a question; when you want God to give clear direction; when you want God to make His will known; when you want God to speak.
 3. _____
This is you loving God in response to His great love for you.
- **The greatest of these is _____.**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NKJV)

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Mark 12:28-30 (NKJV)

28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

Genesis 15:1 (NKJV)

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

Philippians 3:10 (NKJV)

10 That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death

- **All prayer should involve _____.**
 - While Abraham interceded for Lot and Sodom, he still took time to commune with God (see Genesis 18:16-33).
 - While Moses interceded for the people, he still prayed for a personal revelation of God's glory (see Exodus 33:12-23).
- **Prayer must become a _____, just like a normal relationship.**
 - One-way prayer...
 - In the Garden of Eden, God lost the thing that meant the most to Him - His friends (walking in the garden in the cool of the day).
 - Through Calvary, God is intensely trying to restore the thing that means the most to Him - pure and unhindered relationship with His friends.
- **You will find your true _____ in your _____ with God.**
- **Homework Assignment:** For one week, compare your screen time with your prayer time.