

Pursuing God

The Priority of Prayer

The Morning

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Jesus & The Early Church

⇒ *Jesus*

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. (Mark 1:35)

The news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:15-16)

⇒ *The Early Church*

These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer. (Acts 1:14, NASB1995)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

⇒ *The Apostle Paul*

Devote yourselves to prayer. . . (Colossians 4:2)

. . . rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer. (Romans 12:12, NASB)

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 Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18)

The Priority of Prayer

Why Is It So Important?

1) _____ . . . Is _____ We _____ .

2) _____ . . . Is _____ We _____ With _____ .
John 15:7, 15:16, 16:24

Prayer does not fit us for the greater works: prayer is the greater work.

(Oswald Chambers, My Utmost For His Highest)

This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven."

(Matthew 6:9-10)

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

(John 14:12-13)

We see repeatedly in Scripture that prayer is the walkie-talkie for warfare, not a domestic intercom for increasing our conveniences. The point of prayer is empowering for a mission.

(John Piper, Desiring God)

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One Key Question

⇒ How _____ A _____ . . . Is _____ In _____ ?

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

(Ezekiel 36:25-27)