

Monday Motivations to Pray

There are many good reasons to pray, and there are also many not so good reasons why people don't pray. Thankfully, Christ gave us some good motivations to get us to pray. It's really for our own good.

1. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – There are at least five day-to-day reasons why people don't pray. They are listed below. There may be several other spiritual reasons. This passage of Scripture addresses each of these five reasons indirectly. In your own words, tell how this passage teaches us that those reasons aren't valid.

They don't know how.

They are scared that they won't do it right.

They don't know if their motives are right.

They struggle with faith.

They lack discipline. They don't have the time.

Sometimes we have what we think are good reasons not to pray, but Jesus gave us excellent, compelling motivations to get us to pray. It is to our benefit to invest daily time in prayer. Make time for it today!

Tuesday Motivations to Pray

For every reason we can make why we can't or shouldn't pray, there are many, many more reasons why we can and should. Jesus gave several in His Sermon on the Mount. A person who prays is a person who is dependent on God for everything. This person knows the importance of prayer and going to God for his needs.

1. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – In this passage Christ gives us a personal invitation to pray. In other passages He commanded it; here we get a personal invitation. Jesus used three action words in His invitation. What are they?
2. The first one is "ask." This word gives the idea that we are asking God for some need of provision to be met. There are many examples of this in Scripture. Look up the following verses and tell what physical need the person is asking to be met.

REFERENCE	NEED
I Kings 18:36-39	
Matthew 14:30	
Matthew 15:21-28	
Mark 10:46-52	
Luke 11:5-10	
Luke 17:11-19	
Luke 18:1-8	
Luke 23:42	

3. Were any of these needs not met by God?

God is able to meet any need. Whatever need you have, take it to God in prayer and watch Him provide!

**Wednesday
Motivations to Pray**

Jesus gave us several motivations to pray. He told us to ask for God to provide for our needs. He used two other words to describe prayer: “seek” and “knock.” These also reveal more about prayer and give us further motivation to be involved in it.

1. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – Jesus told us to ask. The second word He used was “seek.” This gives the idea of looking not for a thing, but for a person. In the instance of prayer, we are looking for God; we are seeking Him. Think back to the time when you were a young child. You were looking for your mom or dad and went all through the house calling out their name until you found them. That is the attitude we need to have in prayer. How would we do that?

2. Read the following verses and tell what each one reveals about our attitude in seeking God.

VERSE	TEACHING ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE
Deuteronomy 4:29	
Jeremiah 29:13	
Psalms 9:10	
Psalms 10:4	
Psalms 27:8	
Psalms 34:10	
Psalms 40:16	
Psalms 63:1-2	

Seeking God is an attitude of desperation that recognizes that only God can satisfy and meet my needs. Those who seek so diligently have everything they need.

**Thursday
Motivations to Pray**

Though there are reasons, excuses really, why people don't pray, there are many good motivations from Christ why we can and should. Jesus gave us a personal invitation to pray. In that invitation He used the words “ask,” “seek,” and “knock” to describe His invitation and our motivation.

1. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – “Knock” is God's third description of prayer. This word tells about asking for and desiring opportunities. We can try to make things happen, but God is really the only one who can give us the opportunities we ask. What opportunities do you desire?

2. Read Revelation 3:7 – How did the angel describe God in this verse?

3. Read the following verses and tell who opportunities God gave to each of these people.

VERSE	OPPORTUNITY
Nehemiah 1:4-11	
Isaiah 6:8	
Luke 11:5-10	
Acts 4:29-31	
Ephesians 3:14-17	
Ephesians 6:18-19	
Philippians 3:8-10	

God is the only one Who can open doors of opportunities. Without His permission nothing we try to accomplish will work. Ask God to give you opportunities and be patient enough for Him to make them happen.

Friday Motivations to Pray

God invites us to pray. He makes Himself available to us. It doesn't make sense for us to skip the opportunity of coming to God in prayer. Thankfully for us, the invitation to pray also comes with certain promises. God rewards prayer.

1. Read James 5:16 – What promises is given about prayer in this verse?
2. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – Jesus used the three words “ask,” “seek,” and “knock” to teach us about prayer. With each instruction or invitation to pray, He gave a promise in verse 7. Write the promise associated with each word.
 - a. Ask –
 - b. Seek –
 - c. Knock –
3. Jesus reiterated the promises in statement form. He said them like they were statements of fact, not matters of uncertainty. According to verse 8, how many people who ask receive?
4. How many people who seek find?
5. How many people who knock get the door opened?
6. These are great promises that go along with prayer. About what things have you been praying for a long time?
7. How does this passage motivate you to keep praying about those things?

God promises to answer prayer. It is not a fruitless activity. Our responsibility is to pray continually and fervently, and God will give us exactly what we need.

Saturday Motivations to Pray

There are many reasons and excuses why we may not pray. God knew that we might look for them, so He gave us some motivations along the way. God invites us to pray, and He gives special promises to those who do pray. God rewards prayer.

1. Read Hebrews 11:6 – What characteristic of God does this verse reveal in regards to prayer?
2. Read Jeremiah 33:3 – What promise did God give in this verse about prayer?
3. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – Jesus was speaking to common, everyday people in this passage. According to verse 11, what do common, everyday people know how to do for their children?
4. If common everyday people know how to do that, what will our Heavenly Father do for us?
5. To what extent will God do that for His children?
6. What kind of things will God give?
7. Read Romans 8:32 – What does that verse say that God did for us?
8. If God gave us His Son, what will He also give us?
9. Will He give to us freely or grudgingly?
10. With all the invitations to pray and promises associated with prayer, what keeps you from being actively involved in prayer?

God wants us to pray regularly, confidently, and persistently because He promises to answer. He is willing and able to provide our every need. Take time to pray!

Sunday Motivations to Pray

Another motivation to pray is that God hears and answers prayer. For Christians, though, we have a special relationship with God; He is our Heavenly Father.

1. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – There are two relationships mentioned in verse 11. What are they?

2. Jesus is making a comparison between earthly fathers and our Heavenly Father. Some people may have had really good earthly fathers; some may have had bad fathers; some may not have even known their fathers, but our Heavenly Father is infinitely better than the best father here on earth. What does that mean for people who are active in prayer?

3. Read Romans 8:15-17 – By means of adoptions into God family, what are we able to cry to Him?

4. That term is a very special, personal term. By making us His children, God has redeemed us out of our slavery to sin. God is more than an impersonal Creator sitting far out in space; He is a personal Father and redeemer Who is interested in every detail of your life. What does that mean for people who are active in prayer?

5. Romans 8:26-27 talks about prayer. Verses 28-29 are familiar verses, but we usually don't think of them in the context of prayer. God only does good things for His children, and He does them in answer to prayer. Is there really any good reason no to pray?

With all the benefits there are to prayer and with all the promises that come along with it, it makes no sense not to pray. A person who does not pray wastes his life. Pray, pray, pray!!!