

## **Monday Reasons to Pray**

There are many reasons given in the Bible why we should pray. It is certainly an important discipline. The command to pray is given all throughout the Bible. That should be enough to motivate us to pray, but the Bible also gives us other reasons that are both beneficial to us and the cause of Christ.

1. The following verses are all examples of God's command to pray: Matthew 26:41, Luke 18:1, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6, I Thessalonians 5:17, I Timothy 2:1. What do these verses teach you?
2. Another reason we should pray is that Jesus prayed. Read Matthew 14:22-23 – How many people were around Jesus when He went to pray?
3. Where did He go to pray?
4. What time of the day did He pray?
5. Jesus found a quiet place where He could be alone and pray. Read Mark 1:35 – At what time of day did Jesus pray here?
6. It seems that He intentionally woke up early. What does that say about His commitment to prayer?
7. Read Luke 6:12 – How long did Jesus pray in this verse?
8. What just happened in verses 6-11 that motivated Him to pray?
9. If Jesus made it a priority to pray, how much of a priority should it be for us to pray?

The New Testament is full of examples Jesus' prayer life. He prayed morning, evening, and all night. He made time to be alone so He could concentrate on prayer. Make time today to pray!

## **Tuesday Reasons to Pray**

Two compelling reasons to pray are that God commanded it and Jesus practiced it. Sometimes, prayer is hard, and we don't even know how to pray for a particular situation. Thankfully, we don't have to do it alone. We have the Holy Spirit to help us. That's another great reason to pray!

1. Read Romans 8:26-29 – We all have infirmities or weaknesses. Sometimes, they show up while we are praying. According to verse 26, Who helps up in our weaknesses?
2. What specific reason is given for the Holy Spirit's help in prayer?
3. The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us. What is intercession?
4. Even the way the Holy Spirit prays reveals that it is work. He groans under the weight of the matters we bring before God, not that it is hard for Him, but that our prayers are important to Him. Verse 27 mentions the One Who searches the hearts. Who is that?
5. God searches the hearts. What does He know?
6. God knows the mind of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us according to what?
7. According to verse 28, what do we know because we have the help of the Holy Spirit in our prayers?
8. According to verse 29, what is God's ultimate plan for us?

It's easy to get discouraged with prayer because it is hard, and we don't always know how to pray, but we have the help of the Holy Spirit when we do pray. He intercedes for us and helps us to pray properly for every matter.

### **Wednesday Reasons to Pray**

God commanded us to pray. That's a good reason to pray, but Jesus set the example for us when He regularly prayed, and we have the help of the Holy Spirit as we pray. Those are great reasons to pray, but there are more! Prayer is God's way of meeting our needs.

1. Read Matthew 6:11 – Jesus is in the middle of His model prayer. What need did Jesus ask His Father to meet?
2. Those who heard Jesus pray would have understood this verse perfectly. The Jews would have been well aware of the story of God's daily provision of manna in the wilderness. God gave them just enough for that day. They had to rely on God everyday. What does asking God to provide our "daily bread" force us to do?
3. What does Proverbs 30:8-9 say about the issue of having just enough?
4. Read James 4:2 – God listed three activities that people try in order to get what they want. What are they?
5. What reason did God give that the people didn't have what they wanted and tried so hard to get?
6. If Jesus told us to pray for God to meet our daily needs, do you think God will answer that prayer?
7. If the reason we don't have what we need is that we don't ask, does it make sense not to pray?

God had promised to meet our daily needs, but He wants us to ask Him for our daily provisions. It shows Him that we are totally dependent on Him. Pray today...and everyday!

### **Thursday Reasons to Pray**

There are many good reasons to pray. Any one of them ought to me enough to get us on our knees everyday! First, God commanded us to pray. Thankfully, He didn't just give us a command that has to purpose or benefit. His command to pray has benefits both for us and for the cause of Christ. Another reason to pray is that prayer is God's way for Christians to have fullness of joy.

1. Read John 16:22-24 – Jesus is speaking to the Disciples at the Last Supper. It was a very personal time with Jesus where He gave final instructions and encouragements to them. What emotion were the Disciples about to face?
2. When will their heart rejoice again?
3. When we see Jesus face-to-face, we will have no need to ask Him for anything; we will be in Heaven. Until then, what promise is given to us in verse 23?
4. There's a lot more to praying in Jesus' name than just tagging the words "in Jesus' name" at the end of your prayer, but that's a topic for later study. Jesus told His disciples that until that point they had asked for nothing in His name. What did He then tell them to do?
5. What did would happen when they did pray in His name?
6. What was the result they would experience from having their prayer answered?
7. Read Psalm 37:4 – What will happen when our delight is in God?

God wants us to have full joy, and He does it by answering our prayer, but we first have to pray and be delighting in Him and what He values. Be sure your priorities are right!

## Friday Reasons to Pray

There are a lot of good reasons to pray. One is very simple: God commanded it. That command comes with many good benefits. God meets our needs through prayer and allows us to experience fullness of joy through answered prayer. Another good reason to pray is that it is the cure for worry.

1. Read Matthew 6:31-34 – What does Jesus clearly tell us not to do in this passage?
2. Why is it unnecessary?
3. Read I Peter 5:7 – What does God want us to do with all of our cares or worries?
4. What did David say about the same thing in Psalm 55:22?
5. Read Philippians 4:6-7 – About what should we be careful or worry?
6. What should we do in stead of worrying?
7. According to verse 7, what will result from not worrying and taking all your requests to God in prayer?
8. David was quite familiar with troublesome times and had plenty to cause him to worry. Read Psalm 34:6 – What did he do with his worries?
9. What two things did God do?

There is never a need to worry even though there may be many reasons. God wants us to take our cares and concerns to Him in prayer. When we do, He will give us peace that passes all understanding, but it only comes as a result of prayer.

## Saturday Reasons to Pray

D. L. Moody said, “It is foolish and wicked to try to do God’s work without God’s power.” God gives spiritual power for spiritual work in answer to our prayer. What a great reason to pray!

1. Read Acts 4:31 – What happened as these early Believers prayed?
2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit isn’t anything spooky. It’s simply being totally surrendered to Him and allowing Him to control every part of you. As a result of their prayer, the people were filled with the Holy Spirit. What resulted from that?
3. The Believers were able to speak God’s Word boldly. They had spiritual power for spiritual work as a result of prayer. Read Acts 9:10-19 – After Saul’s conversion, God sent Ananias to see him. According to verse 11, what was Saul doing?
4. According to verse 17, what did Ananias do when he got to Saul’s house?
5. Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and received spiritual power as a result of prayer. Read Ephesians 3:14-19 – What was the first thing Paul asked for the Ephesians in verse 16?
6. Paul knew that the secret to having spiritual power to do spiritual work is prayer. He prayed for the Ephesian people to have the power they needed. Whom do you know who needs spiritual power?

Tomorrow is Sunday. Many of you will have some area of ministry to complete. You don’t have to work in your own power. There is power available to do that work, and it is only available through prayer. Pray!

## **Sunday Reasons to Pray**

Some of the reason to pray benefit us: the Holy Spirit helps us, God meets our needs, we experience fullness of joy, and it cures worry. Some of the reasons to pray benefit the cause of Christ. God wants us to pray because it reaffirms His existence to the world around us.

1. Read I Kings 18:36-39 – What did Elijah ask God to do?
2. How did God answer that prayer?
3. Did Elijah ever ask God to send fire?
4. According to verse 39, what did the prophets of Baal finally realize?
5. It's a great testimony to grace and power of God for His children to be able to tell what He has done in their lives. Read Judges 6:11-13 – To whom was the angel speaking?
6. What did he call Gideon in verse 12?
7. What did Gideon ask in verse 13?
8. Basically, Gideon wanted to know why God wasn't working as He did when He brought Israel out of Egypt. Later in passage Gideon asked for proof that God was still alive and at work. Did God answer his prayer?
9. Daniel was asked to interpret the king's dream. He prayed, and God revealed it to him. When Daniel told the king that he had the interpretation, he gave God the credit for revealing it. What did the king say in response to Daniel's answered prayer in Daniel 2:47?

God gets the glory for answered prayer because only God can do what He does. It's a great witnessing tool. Keep praying!