

Intercessory prayer – Praying Always

Ezekiel 22:30 "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

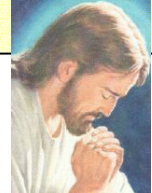
Obituary

"Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of a great revival, she was one of the most influential members of the church family.

For the past several years, Mrs. Prayer Meeting has been failing in health. At the last, she was but a shadow of her former self. Her last whispered words were inquiries concerning the absence of her loved one, now busy in the markets of trade and places of worldly amusements.

Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr. Reform, and Dr. Joiner, all disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness. They had administered large doses of organizations and socials, but to no avail. A postmortem autopsy showed that a deficiency of spiritual food, coupled with a lack of faith and general support, were contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death.

In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights!"



Revelations I have received ...

Not as many people pray as we think they do

Not as many people pray as say they do

Those who don't have a dedicated daily prayer time, but say they pray all day, really don't.

Statistics of when and how much people pray?

- An average Christian prays 3-7 minutes a day (including meal time prayers).
- 52 percent of people who pray do so several times a day.
- 37 percent of people say they pray once a day.
- 21 percent have extended prayer time with other family members (25 percent among Protestants and 13 percent among Catholics).
- 33 percent of adults regularly participate in a prayer group or other meeting that has a focus on prayer.
- Average Protestant minister prays for 39 minutes a day; 21% typically spend 15 minutes or less per day.

"... Christians spend seven times as much time on entertainment as they do on spiritual activities." George Barna

Convicting Quotes:

"Where there is NO PRAYER, THERE IS NO POWER!"

"Failure in prayer is due to fault in the heart."

"The problem with the average Christian is that he is just an average Christian!"



- 4% of those professing to be Christians have read their Bible all the way through at least once.
- 36% of adults read the bible during a typical week.

What is prayer?

Prayer is a dialogue between two persons who love each other—God and man. Prayer is more than words; it is an attitude and an expression of the heart toward God. Prayer is hard work. Prayer is holy work. God has a more difficult time finding people to pray than He does any other assignment.

The Privilege

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given us. Prayer, though unseen, allows us to participate in the work of God throughout the world.

Pray always:

Luke 18:1-8 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ² saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³ Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' ⁴ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

⁶ Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷ And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Intercession requires perseverance not to quit:

Luke 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Colossians 1:3-14 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Colossians 1:9-14 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

2 Thessalonians 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power,