

## **SALT Church**

**Devoted to Prayer**

July 9, 2025

“Stand Alone”

I read the following quote on prayer from the Desiring God website:

*“God has established prayer as the means by which we receive his supernatural help.*

*And without supernatural help, we cannot live a life worthy of the gospel.*

*Everything that distinguishes Christians from the world in a Christ-exalting way is a work of God’s supernatural grace.*

*And God has ordained that this grace flows to us through prayer.*

*That’s why prayer must be central, not peripheral, in our lives and families and ministries.”*

**We know that the early church father’s would agree absolutely with that statement.**

For we read in the book of Acts and throughout all of the Bible the importance of prayer.

***Acts 1:14***

***<sup>14</sup> All these (early church) were continually devoting themselves with one mind to prayer, along with *the* women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.***

***Acts 2:42***

***<sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.***

***Acts 6:4 (The Apostles call to devote themselves to prayer and the teaching of God's Word)***

***<sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."***

***Colossians 4:2 (Paul's command to the Colossian Church)***

***Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;***

So we see very clearly that prayer was a very important part of the early church.

**WHY PRAY?**

### **1. God through the Bible commands us to pray.**

- a. It would be very dangerous and foolish to ignore God's command to pray and be devoted to prayer.

### **2. Your family, church, missionaries, the world, and your enemies, are counting on you to pray.**

- a. God uses the power of prayer to change peoples lives.
- b. In the book of Job God refused to forgive Jobs lying friends until Job prayed for them.
- c. Prayer keeps all of these very important people before the throne of God and before our hearts.
  - i. They are counting on us for the request of their needs to be met according to the glory of God.

### **3. God hears and acts when we pray.**

- a. God can do more in 5 seconds than we can do in 5 lifetimes.
- b. We pray like this because we know that to be true.
  - i. We know that He can do anything that is not sin.
  - ii. We know that He speaks, and bodies are healed, needs are met, and sin, darkness, and depression are lifted.

## **How do we pray?**

### **1. Pray from the Bible's example:**

#### **Ephesians 3:14-19**

**<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bend my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its**

name, <sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner self, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

- **We pray the promises of the Bible** “anything that is according to His will”
- **Pray the warnings of the Bible** “Hate = murder, lust = adultery”
  - **We must go to war with our sin** “gouging eyes out and cutting off hands” That’s war language!
  - **Praying for the lost so that they will not end up in Hell.**

## **2. Make a list**

- a. I can’t remember everything like I used to, write down.
  - i. Groupe me prayer list
    - 1. There are so many people who need our prayers.

## **3. Develop patterns of prayer**

- a. Some days will be from the list
- b. Some days from the heart
  - i. Set apart certain times of the day (morning for me)

1. Sometimes or most of the time in the shower.

#### 4. Pray alone and together

- a. Let your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, see you in prayer alone with God.
- b. Pray with your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren.
- c. Pray for your friends and with your friends.

#### 5. Pray in desperation and delight

- a. This is life
  - i. Don't wait for the crisis, IT IS COMING!
  - ii. Rejoice in the delightful times in life.

2 Corinthians 6:2-10

Behold, now is “a favorable time,” behold, now is “a day of salvation”— <sup>3</sup> giving no reason for *taking* offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, <sup>4</sup> but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in difficulties, <sup>5</sup> in beatings, in imprisonments, in mob attacks, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, <sup>6</sup> in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, <sup>7</sup> in the word of truth, *and* in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, <sup>8</sup> by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown and *yet* well known, as dying and *yet* behold, we are alive;

as punished and *yet* not put to death, <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and *yet* possessing all things.

6. Pray for the short and the long:

- a. Some days require extended amounts of prayer
- b. Some days require shorter times in prayer
  - i. You'll find longer times of prayer for bigger decisions
  - ii. Shorter prayers when people ask you questions about God or scripture.
    1. Pray without stopping!

Finally, if you can't remember how or what to pray for refer back to

**Matthew 6:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father, who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

**Don't be afraid to put it in your own words.**

Piper video "Teach Us To Pray"