



Week 1 - Praise

Acts 1:14 | August 1, 2021

Sermon Summary:

God wants to communicate with you and He wants you to communicate with Him. When you need Him, He's always there. Why not talk to Him regularly? All the time? How much time do you spend on your phone each day? Week? Month? We talk to others more and are more connected than ever before in history and yet, it seems, we spend less and less time talking to our Heavenly Father. Jesus clearly taught that when we ask we receive. What is it that you need? What do we need in our church? What do we need in our country? The disciples were waiting and praying in the Upper Room after Jesus' ascension. They were all in ONE ACCORD (Acts 1:14). May we join together communicating to the Lord in this season the same things at the same time with passion and persistence!

All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 1:14

Diving Into the Message:

"Nine times out of ten, falling away from God begins in the neglect of private prayer."

Charles Spurgeon

"Prayer is the easiest and hardest of all things; the simplest and the sublimest; the weakest and the most powerful; its results lie outside the range of human possibilities - they are limited only by the omnipotence of God."

Edward McKendree Bounds

"Don't forget to pray! Education gets you what education can do. Science gets what science can do. Technology gets you what technology can do. But prayer gets you what God can do."

Marcus Cathey

"Prayer is the work; Ministry is the prize!"

Haddon Robinson

Why Pray?

1. God promises to give you peace.
2. God promises to hear you and to help you.
3. God promises to respond in the way that is best for you.
4. God promises to give you a new perspective.
5. God promises rest.
6. God promises to be close to you.
7. God promises power to overcome.
8. God promises to reward you.

How to Pray?

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- Twelve minutes of attentive and focused prayer every day for eight weeks changes the brain significantly enough to be measured in a brain scan.

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6:5-13

When to Pray?

Thirty-three times in the Gospels Jesus pulled away from the crowd to pray.

What to Pray?

PRAISE

“Focus your communication on praising and worshipping God and it will radically change your time in pray and the content of your prayers!” *Dr. Craig Etheredge*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name.
Matthew 6:9

- Praise elevates God
- Praise ushers us into God’s Presence
- Praise reminds us of God’s Power
- Praise positions us to Resist the Enemy

Life Application Questions

1. How often do you pray?
2. Have you ever been involved in a concert of prayer with others praying together for the same things?
3. What are some things that you would want others to join with you in praying for your family? For our church? For the coast? For our country?
4. Why do we not pray more?
5. What would you need to commit 12 minutes a day to prayer over the next 8 weeks?
6. What difference does our praying make? In our lives? In the world around us?
7. Let’s stop here and spend some time praising the Lord together!

Announcements



Let's pray together.

125 Days of Prayer: August 29 - December 31

Text **PRAY** to (228)265-5020 to submit your prayer request.



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