

# Prioritizing Prayer

Mike Towner



Published February 5, 2017

**Our Purpose:** To be a community of believers where, no matter who you are, you can experience life change through Jesus Christ.

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*

—Mark 1:35 (ESV)

## 1. Jesus Prioritized PRAYER Because

### A. He Needed Prayer

- ***For Renewal***

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*

—Mark 1:35 (ESV)

*Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. ... And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.*

—Matthew 14:13 & 23 (ESV)

***Prayer is not doing religious chores; prayer is where God restores.***

- ***For Direction***

*and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.”*

—Mark 1:37-38 (ESV)

*In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles...*

—Luke 6:12-13 (ESV)

## **B. Others Needed Prayer**

*“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*

—Luke 22:31-32 (ESV)

## **2. Jesus Prioritized PRAYER By**

### **A. Preparing in Prayer**

*“Prayerless people cut themselves off from God’s prevailing power. ... Prayer is the key to unlocking God’s prevailing power in your life.”*

— Pastor Bill Hybels

*“When man works, man works; when man prays, God works.”*

—unknown

### **B. Retreating Often in Prayer**

*Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

—Luke 5:15-16 (NIV)

**“It’s not about doing More things; it’s about doing The Most Important things.”**