

Choices Part 14 – Choose to Pray – Part 1

Ephesians 6:12 (CJB) - For we are not struggling (wrestle, fight) against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

Ephesians 6:13 (CJB) - So take up every piece of war equipment God provides; so that when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist; and when the battle is won, you will still be standing.

Ephesians 6:18-20 (NASB Strong's) - 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Luke 18:1 (HCSB) - He then told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not become discouraged:

Mark 1:35 (HCSB) - Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there.

Luke 3:21 (HCSB) - When all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. As He was praying, heaven opened,

- Jesus, in His humanity, was open to heaven and because of this heaven was open to Him

Luke 6:12 (HCSB) - During those days He went out to the mountain to pray and spent all night in prayer to God.

John 17:1 (1-26 is a prayer made by Jesus to the Father) (HCSB) - Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said:

Matthew 14:23 (HCSB) - After dismissing the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone.

Luke 22:41-44 (HCSB) - Then He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and began to pray, 42 "Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me—nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done." [43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. 44 Being in anguish, He prayed more fervently, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.]

Matthew 6:9-13 (HCSB) - "Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in

heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

John 11:41-42 (HCSB) - So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes and said, “Father, **I thank You that You heard Me.** ⁴² I know that You always hear Me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so they may believe You sent Me.”

Mark 9:29 (HCSB) - And He told them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer [and fasting].”

Matthew 21:13 (HCSB) - And He said to them, “It is written, My house will be called a **house of prayer.** But you are making it a den of thieves!”

- **Isaiah 56:4-7 (HCSB)** - For the LORD says this: “For the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold firmly to My covenant, ⁵ I will give them, in My house and within My walls, a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters. I will give each of them an everlasting name that will never be cut off. ⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD minister to Him, love the name of Yahweh and become His servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold firmly to My covenant— ⁷ I will bring them to My holy mountain and let them rejoice in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar, **for My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.**”

Why Pray?

- Jesus did
- We are commanded
- Prayer acknowledges you can do nothing without Him

John 5:19 (HCSB) - Then Jesus replied, “I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father^[a] does, the Son also does these things in the same way.

Prayer taps into the source of spiritual endurance

SO WHY DON'T WE PRAY

1. We don't understand what “pray”/prayer means

Prayer, SIMPLE DEFINATION

- Communion with God
 - SO many people, to include myself, have said “prayer is us talking to God”
 - While there is some truth to that statement listen again to what I said “talking TO God” – a monologue, not a dialoge

What is Communion?

- The act or an instance of sharing, as of thoughts or feelings.
 - Also unity, harmony, fellowship, closeness
 - Example - The communion between George Willard and his mother was outwardly a formal thing without meaning.
- 2. **We think it's someone else's job**
 - a. **James 5:13-15 (NASB Strong's)** - 13 Is anyone among you **suffering? Then he must pray.** Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Weak prayers are offered in doubt (Hebrews 11:6)
Strong prayers are offered in complete faith in Him

Weak prayers are seen in “if it is your will”