

Fostering a Passion for Prayer

Ephesians 6:18-20

"... these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56:7

"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

"Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there to a desolate place by himself." Matthew 14:13

"Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here, while I go over there and pray.'" Mark 26:36

Prayer is the most powerful weapon in the Christian's arsenal for the advancement of the kingdom of God and for the spiritual unity, maturity, and witness of the church.

I. Pray like your life depends on it... because it does. Ephesians 6:18

"Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."
Ephesians 6:18

The Urgency of Prayer - "Praying at all times ...

"Most Christians pray sometimes, with some prayers and some degree of perseverance, for some of God's people. But to replace 'some' by 'all' in each of these expressions would be to introduce us to a new dimension of prayer." John Stott

The Ministry of the Spirit in Prayer - "Praying at all times in the Spirit..."
How do you pray "in the Spirit?"

Prayer is seeking God's Will. Pray through the Word of God. (The sword of the Spirit.)

Prayer is submitting to God's Will. Pray, listening to the Spirit's application of God's Word.

Prayer is strengthening. Pray, letting the Holy Spirit encourage you in the promises of the gospel.

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Romans 8:26,27

“Prayer is set within a life marked by companionship and dialogue with the Lord... What does it mean to pray in the Spirit? It implies the help of the Spirit in our weakness; relying on his power and wisdom, not on our own.” Sinclair Ferguson

II. Pray like your brothers and sisters depend on it... because they do.

Ephesians 6:18

“To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

Prayer keeps you sharp.

It keeps you conscious of the danger and the days in which we live.

“And Jesus came to his disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.’” Matthew 26:40

Prayer keeps one another strong.

It invites the Holy Spirit to strengthen believers where they might feel weakened.

“... that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe...” Ephesians 1:15-16

“...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3:16,17

Pray that God would keep you and your brothers and sister awake and alert to the dangers that surround us.

Pray that God would keep you and your brothers and sisters encouraged in the power and the love of Christ.

Those are crucial because that is where our brothers and sisters being to lose the battle. We get dulled and discouraged.

III. Pray like our mission depends on it ... because it does.

Ephesians 6:19-20

“and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Ephesians 6:19-20

Give Clarity, Lord.

“And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Luke 12:11-12

Give Courage, Lord.

“for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Acts 4:31

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”