

WHY WE PRAY

Not everything that happens on earth is in God's will or plan. In Matthew 6:10 Jesus commands us to pray "... *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" If God's will were being done on earth as God wants it to be, there would be no reason for Jesus to tell us to pray that God's will be done on earth. *Prayer is needed for us to experience God's will on earth.* Our prayers on the keyboard of earth trigger hammers on the piano strings of heaven.

Genesis 1:26 tells us that God made us in His image and gave us dominion over all the earth and all the creatures. God is NOT in authority in our lives unless we give our lives to Him, because He gave dominion to us. We have a free will and God will not violate our free will. Without prayer and a yielded will, God is limited in what He can do in our lives. To pray is to triumph.

We pray to ask for protection. All the water in all the world cannot sink a boat unless the water gets inside the boat. Nor can all the trouble in the world harm us unless it gets inside us. "*The LORD will keep you from all harm...*" Psalm 121:7

Prayer is a means of being obedient to our Lord God. Obedience is willingly submitting to the process that God has chosen for us to be conformed to the image of His Son. By loving God above all else, our greatest longing will be to conform our lives to His will. We learn His will through studying the Bible, communication with Him in prayer, and communication with other Christians. Prayer helps us achieve our destiny within His ministry.

We pray because God wants us to pray to Him. "If My people, who are called by My name, will *humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*" 2 Chronicles 7:14

"*He prays to God and finds favor with Him, he sees God's face and shouts for joy; he is restored by God to his righteous state.*" Job 33:26 Praying brings God's favor and great joy. Without God's grace, we cannot be saved. Without our participation, God's grace cannot save. We can participate by developing Holy Habits, which are: Bible study, prayer, daily devotion, worship, fellowship, witness (telling others about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit) and tithing (tithing means giving God 10% of our funds as well as our service.)

"*For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.*" Jeremiah 29:11-12 We pray to seek wisdom and discernment, develop intimacy with God and effectiveness in prayer.

As we pray and study the Bible we find ourselves drawn closer to our Lord God. Over time, we progress from the level of relationship with Him as our Sovereign Creator who fulfills our needs; to considering Him as our Savior when we begin to really want to pray; then we move deeper toward His heart and think of Him as our Father and we find ourselves wanting to please Him; next we experience Him as our Companion and prayer becomes an exciting interchange; and last we reach the very heart of God and savor our relationship with Him as our Intimate Friend. Then prayer flows out of our hearts as He invites us to explore His glory, purposes and power. As we draw closer to Him and know the dimensions of His character, we are better able to sense what He wants, and His desires become our desires.

We pray because Jesus prayed: *“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”* Luke 5:16

We pray because Jesus said: *“...whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”* Mark 11:24 Prayerful lives are powerful lives. Prayer keeps us in communication with our Lord God, which is the goal of our entire believing lives. While prayerful lives are truly powerful lives, the ultimate goal God has for us is not power but personal intimacy with Him. God will manifest Himself to you in anointed ways.

God wants to bring us healing, but more than anything, He wants us to know our Healer. He wants us to know the Resurrection and the Life. Prayer is not only the means to an end, it is an end itself in preparing us for a joyous eternity in intimacy with God.

We pray because it is written in Romans 12:12: *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

We pray because Philippians 4:6 says: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

“Jesus said, ‘And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.’ ” John 14:13-14

“Jesus said ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’ ” John 14:6 We pray in the name of Jesus, and only as Jesus would pray.

“Jesus replied... ‘If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.’ ” Matthew 21:22 Believing and praying will result in your receiving whatever you ask for, if it is in God’s plan. Sometimes His answer is no, because it is not in His Godly plan.

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Praying continually with joy and thanksgiving will lead us into a closer, very satisfying relationship with Him. It will wonderfully change our hearts, minds and spirits so that we become more like Christ.

“Jesus...always lives to intercede for them.” Hebrews 7:24-25b Jesus is praying for us today. What a comforting thing to know. What a powerful reason to pray for others (intercede for others). The Word of God commands praying for others, as the Will of God demands praying for others.

We pray because the Holy Spirit prays for us and with us: *“We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”* Romans 8:26 The Spirit only intercedes for us when we are praying. We are taught to intercede for others in prayer as well as to pray with others.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18 “All the saints” means “All the believers.”

“Then Jesus said...that they should always pray and not give up.” Luke 18:1

We pray because God wants to hear from us and deepen the relationship we have with Him. Just as parents yearn to hear from beloved distant children, God yearns to hear from us. Praying is our way of “phoning home.” After prayer, we wait in patient, believing expectation.

I thank my God for the wonderful privilege of being able to pray to Him. I praise, honor and glorify Him, for I know He answers prayer. I know that prayer works. I have felt its transforming power. I can testify that prayer has divine power. If you are struggling with anything, prayer can overcome it. He is able: *“And God is able...”* 2 Corinthians 9:8 He sent Jesus so we could *“...have life, and it to the full.”* John 10:10

God answers my prayers, and He will answer your prayers. I pray continually with peace, joy, thanksgiving and belief, and I wait in patient, believing expectation. You can, too. *“God answered their prayers, because they trusted in Him.”* 1 Chronicles 5:20 It is as simple and powerful as that.

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.

Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.

If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” James 5:13-16

ASAP – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

Ever wonder about the abbreviation ASAP? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

ASAP

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;
You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

In the midst of family chaos,
"Quality time" is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like your worries
Are more than you can bear.
Slow down and take a breather
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

God knows how stressful life is;
He wants to ease our cares,
And He'll respond to all your needs
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.