

THE
WHY SHOULD I
SERIES

TAPE NUMBER SMX-481 MARCH 8, 2003

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHY SHOULD I PRAY ?” – PART TWO

SERMON SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED KEYWORD:

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, WILL OF GOD, INTERCESSION

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Acts 2:41-47

A SERIES ON THE LIFE, MINISTRY AND INFLUENCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

A Practical Sub-Title:”
“Scriptural Reason’s Why
You Should Take a Closer Look at Your Local Church”

Acts 2:41-47

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42

*“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, **and in prayers.**”*

Notice the Plurality in Reference to Prayer

*“And they continued steadfastly...**in prayer(s)**”*

Prayers Plural

They Not Only “Prayed Often,
But They Knew “How To” Offer Up Prayer in Situation(s)

**Knowing “How To” Pray in Life’s Situation(s)
Will Greatly Affect Your Spiritual Success!**

WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

1.) *Prayer Introduces us to God*

Luke 11:1

Now it came to pass, as Jesus was praying in a certain place, that when He ceased, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..."

Now, If Jesus Being the Son of God,
saw the need to Pray – *So Should We!*

“He prayed in a certain place”

Jesus recognized the need to get away from distractions to be with
the Father – *So Should We!*

Notice:

They came asking... "Lord, teach us to pray...
Shouldn't we be asking Him also?

Listen!!!

There was a day when man walked and talked with God in Eden...

Yes - Because Prayer Introduces Us to God Again!
It's Man's Opportunity / It's Our Moment to be With Him Again

Prayer Introduces us to God

1a.) That's because we have a desire to cry out to God

Life is Difficult *and we Need Help!*

Every Human Being, Will in Time, Cry Out to His or Her God
That God may be money, it may ambition...

It may even be intellect!

Last Month - NASA, & JPL in Pasadena lost a world-renowned Astronomer, Scientist, and Engineer by the name of Albert Hibbs.

At the End of his life - All His Intellectual Prowse mattered
Nothing if called out to the wrong god or gods...

Yet Mankind Has This
"Built In"
Panic Button

But Why?

It is the Witness of Holy Spirit in the World...

John 16:7-11

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸
"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Introduction to Prayer

Is a "Re-Introduction" for Us to Come Back God,
into the Room to Talk with Him

Prayer Allows for us Freely - "The New Testament Church"
What the Old Testament Economy Required of Ever Man
Before He Could Approach God...

That There Had to Be, The Sacrifices, The Offerings, The High Priest,
The Altar, The Tabernacle, The Temple, The Details...

Hebrews 9:1-14

Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. ² For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; ³ and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ⁴ which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail ⁶ Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. ⁷ But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; ⁸ the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹ It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-- ¹⁰ concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. ¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 10:19-23

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Temple Life - On the Inside!!!

It's No Wonder Why John Said...

John 1:29b

..."Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Why Do We Have This Need to Cry Out?

Because Mankind is the Original "Fugitive",
A Self-Imposed "Runaway" from God!

But There's Hope

And It's Called the Gospel, Good News of Jesus Christ

Luke 4:16-22

So Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as was His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of Isaiah the prophet. And when He had opened it, He found the place where it was written: (and so He read) ¹⁸ **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."** ²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down (the teachers sat in those days). And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, **"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."** ²² So all the people bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth...

Tell Me – What was wrong His sermon?

Answer, Nothing!

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one Mediator (go between or connection) between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom (payment for a debt) for all, to be testified in due time, (TODAY IS THAT DUE DATE)

Prayer Introduces us to God

1b.) Because we believe He is willing to help us

How Can We Believe This?

Because life often brings us to the end of ourselves. It's "then" and "when" we see our great need for God and His Willingness to Help Us...

THE LORD IS GOD

EVEN IN A STORM OR AN EARTHQUAKE OR IN A DISASTER!

Psalm 50:15

Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

"He is Willing"

Psalm 91:14-16

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. ¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."

"He is Willing"

Psalm 50:15

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you,
and you shall glorify Me."

Jeremiah 29:12-13

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

But Why is He Willing?

Prayer Introduces us to God

1c.) Because *God alone* is our only answer

Luke 12:32

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

God is the Answer – *He's the only Answer!!!*

NEWSWEEK

"BUSH & GOD"

For such a time as this?

*Because **God alone** is our only answer*

Matthew 6:5-7

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷ And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

It's Our Fathers Desire to Answer Us

Luke 12:25-32

And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁶ If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? ²⁹ "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. ³² "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Five Beneficial Answers to Prayer

Prayer acts as a

"COMMUNICATION LINE"
tapping into the heart and mind of God

Prayer allows us

"NON-STOP FELLOWSHIP"
bring back what was lost in the garden

Prayer changes things

"TRANSFORMATION TOOL"

Prayer unites us

"THROUGH COMMONALITY"
people who pray together are stuck together

Prayer enables us

"TO MOVE OFFENSIVELY"
we become spiritual bold regarding impossible matters

Mark 11:24

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray,
believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

It is being at prayer that steady's our hand at life

Listen Young Man or Young Woman.

Stop and Go and Pray - do it!

And watch God begin to strengthen your hand at life!

Prayer is Spiritual Act

Whereby God has created the opportunity for us to talk to Him and He to us.

Prayer is a Conversation

Maybe you have come to see your need of God in your life?