

THE  
**WHY SHOULD I**  
SERIES

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“WHY SHOULD I PRAY ?” – PART 3**

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. <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

<sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

**1.) *Prayer Introduces us to God***

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

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

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

## We Considered Five Benefits of Prayer

*Prayer acts as a*

“COMMUNICATION LINE”  
tapping into the heart and mind of God

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*Prayer allows us*

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

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*Prayer changes things*

“TRANSFORMATION TOOL”  
the changing of our will toward His will

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*Prayer unites us*

“THROUGH COMMONALITY”  
people who pray together are stuck together

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*Prayer enables us*

“TO MOVE OFFENSIVELY”  
we become spiritually bold regarding impossible matters

## WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

1.) *Prayer Introduces us to God*

## 2.) *Prayer Connects us to God*

*Prayer Connects us to God*

### 2a.) *How are we connected to God by prayer?*

“How Ya Gonna Send Up”

On what bases  
***does God allow our prayers  
to come before him?***

**The Answer is;  
Solely upon The merit of Jesus Christ**

#### **Hebrews 10:19-22**

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and having a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> 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.

#### **Hebrews 10:10-12**

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <sup>11</sup> And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

***How are we connected to God by prayer?***

**The Pattern for Prayer**

***We Pray to the Father, Through Holy Spirit, in Jesus Name***

***The Lord's Prayer – not really***

### **Matthew 6:9-13**

"In this manner, therefore, pray: our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### *Prayer **Connects** us to God*

#### **2b.) What are we connected to practically?**

- "The Will of God"
- "The Heart of God"
- "The Very Throne Room of God"

### **Hebrews 8:1-2**

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, <sup>2</sup> a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

### **2 Corinthians 1:20**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

### *Prayer **Connects** us to God*

#### **2c.) When are we connected to Him?**

### **When we Pray!**

### **Philippians 4:6-7 NIV**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **When we Pray in Faith**

**John 15:7**

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

**Matthew 21:21-22**

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. <sup>22</sup> "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

***When we Pray in the Spirit***

It is to Pray in Accordance to God's Will, yes!

**Romans 8:26**

Likewise the Holy Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Holy Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

***When we Pray for Others***

**James 5:16**

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

**Colossians 1:9-12**

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup> that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

*Prayer Connects us to God*

***2d.) Where does the connection take place?***

# Simultaneously *In Heaven and on Earth (in me)*

## Revelation 8:3-4

Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

## 1 Chronicles 16:29a

Give to the LORD the glory due His name;  
bring an offering, - **and come before Him...**

## *King David Longed for the “Real” Presence of God*

## Psalm 27:4

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

## 2 Chronicles 6:33a

"hear from heaven - Your dwelling place,

## ***Solomon Caught It***

## 2 Chronicles 6:39-40

then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You. <sup>40</sup> Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place.

# Simultaneously *In Heaven and on Earth (in me)*

When we pray, worship and preach –  
*heaven and earth are in the same time zone*

**2e.) *Why has He made the connection possible?***

Providing Us Divine Comfort, Guidance, & Fellowship...

THAT WE MIGHT BE RECONNECTED TO THE POWER OF GOD

***PRAYER IS TO BE AS EASY AND AS COMMON  
AS TALKING TO A FRIEND***

**Matthew 6:7**

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.

In His Compassion for Lost Humanity  
He has made it possible for man to make his way back  
into communion with God again.

***“Why” has He made this connection possible?”***

That we no longer walk in Darkness

**1 John 1:5-9**

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**WHY SHOULD I PRAY?**

**1.) *Prayer Introduces us to the person of God***

## **2.) Prayer Connects us to the power of God**

## **3.) Prayer Keeps us in the presence of God**

### **Prayer Keeps us in the presence of God**

#### **3a.) Prayer Keeps us Physically Dedicated**

##### **Romans 12:1-2**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**“The Iraqi Born Marine Going to Iraq a Solider!”**

##### **Job 31:1 NIV**

"I made a covenant with my eyes  
not to look lustfully upon a girl.

**It's Hard to “Sin Big” or to “Keep Sinning”  
when You're Physically Dedicated to God Through Prayer**

##### **Romans 6:13**

And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

### **We're Living Temples Now**

##### **2 Corinthians 6:16**

“...For you are the temple of the living God. As God Himself has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them (Eden Restored). I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

##### **1 Corinthians 6:19**

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

### **Ephesians 2:19-21**

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

### **1 Peter 2:4-5**

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

*Prayer **Keeps** us in the presence of God*

## **3b.) Prayer Keeps us Emotionally Balanced**

### **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (of this world) but are mighty in God for (1) pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> (2) casting down arguments and (3) every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, (4) bringing every thought (emotion - the mind) into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

## **We Are “Emotional” Creations**

***It's from the realm of our Emotions  
That great passion, creativity and vision is communicated!***

### **Philippians 2:5-7a**

Let this mind (thought life - passion, creativity and vision) be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant...

*Prayer **Keeps** us in the presence of God*

## **3c.) Prayer Keeps us Spiritually Empowered**

## ***Jesus' Example at Prayer!***

**Luke 22:40-45**

When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup> And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw...  
...and He knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." <sup>43</sup> Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. <sup>44</sup> And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup> When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow.

***Being Strengthened Each Time***

## ***Prayer Keeps us Spiritually Empowered***

***We're Empowered Through Prayer***

**Ephesians 6:18**

praying always (and never stop) with all prayer and supplication (plead with God) in the Spirit, being watchful to this end, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere.

**Micah 3:8a**

"...I am full of power by the Holy Spirit of the LORD..."

# ***In Closing – Let me Say This...***

**We Have Hindered the Power of Prayer in Our Lives**

**Mark 11:24-26**

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. <sup>25</sup> And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. <sup>26</sup> But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

**1 Peter 3:7**

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

**Isaiah 59:1-3 NIV**

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. <sup>3</sup> For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.

**Isaiah 1:15-16**

When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. <sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil,

**Mark 11:25-26**

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. <sup>26</sup> "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

**When is Our prayers hindered?**

*When we harbor, or allow known sin to be un-confessed  
And when we have unforgiveness in our hearts  
toward another human being*

*The Lord will not Hear us...*

**So Why Shouldn't We  
Pray?**