



PRAY
Ephesians 6:12-13
February 5, 2023

1. Sunday Summary: We ended our series this morning by talking about prayer and its importance in the Christian Life. Indeed, we noted that prayer is necessary duty in spiritual warfare – it’s the action that will keep our armour oiled so that it doesn’t rust. As we worked through the passage we noted the “ALLS” of prayer in verse 18. We are called to pray on ALL occasions (the “When?” of prayer). This means praying not necessarily every minute of the day, but in every sort of circumstance. If we do that we’ll find that we will pray often as success, failure, blessing, fear, and every other sort of circumstance comes our way. We are also called to pray with ALL prayers and requests (the “What?” of prayer). The Lord tells us to come to him and ask. He is not a miserly God who withholds from his children, but liberally gives to us. Though we may tire of hearing our children ask for things that they want and need, the Lord never does. Next, we’re told to pray with All perseverance (the “How?” of prayer). This isn’t always our strong suit, but God asks us to come to him again and again, so that as we pray, we don’t lose heart. Finally, we’re ought to pray for ALL the Lord’s people (the “for Whom?” of prayer). In other words, we come to God on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Imagine what could happen if we consistently, prayed for one another?

2. Connecting Questions: (Interactive, life sharing, thought & feeling type stuff)

- Begin by talking briefly about your prayer life. How is it? What are your prayer patterns? Would you like to grow in prayer?

- Pastor Mike suggested that sometimes, when it comes to prayer, we spend 5, 30, or 60 minutes in prayer, and we feel like we can now check prayer off our list. It’s done. In this passage we’re being told to pray often, on every occasion. What keeps you from praying more? Forgetfulness? Bad theology? Not seeing answers to your prayers? Other?

- How often do you pray for others? Do you think prayer really “works?” Does God really hear our prayers for each other and answer them? If so why don’t we seem to see more answered prayer?

3. Truth Questions: (What does the Bible say?)

- Read Luke 18:1-8 together. Pastor Mike referred to this parable in his sermon. What do you think this parable is trying to teach us with respect to prayer?
- Read Exodus 2: 23. One commentator has suggested that this passage means that God hears all groans and cries, whether they are directed in prayer to him or not (notice they did not cry out to God, but their cry went up to God all the same). Today, it's common among unbelievers, who may not believe in God to send "good thoughts" or "good vibes" to people who are in hard circumstances. Does God hear those? What's the difference (if any) between "good thoughts" and prayers?

4. Formation Questions: (Taking it further, How does the Truth change the way I live?)

- How will what you've learned help you to live out the gospel in your life? How will you work on your prayer life this week? What can you do to create some new prayer patterns in your life?

