

Rise Up and Build: Ensuring a Strong Foundation

Offering

Purposeful Prayer

to God

Are we satisfied with our prayer life?

- Why don't we pray more than we do?
- What discourages us from being consistent in our prayers?
- Do we always pray for our greatest need?
- Would we be more consistent if we had a stronger faith that prayer was accomplishing its goal?

Seven Purposes of Prayers

Purpose 1: To remind us of our place in the universe

- Are we God's children or grandchildren?
 - What is the first statement in the Lord's prayer?
 - Do we truly appreciate our status in relation to God? Hebrews 12:18-28 (Exodus 20:19), Habakkuk 2:20
 - Who is the servant in the relationship? Eph. 1:5-6, 11-12; 2:10
- A temporal mind praying to an eternal God, Job 36:24-26
 - Do we go to God with instruction or for guidance? Rom. 8:26
 - I can ask for wisdom from one who has a true perspective on my life

Do I trust God's plan for me over my plan for God?

Purpose 2: To give us certainty in an uncertain world

- If God is eternal, does He change with time?
 - The same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8, Psalm 90:2, Psalm 102:25-27)
 - The world's morality is ever-changing, but God is not affected
- “If we are faithless, He remains faithful...” 2 Timothy 2:11-13
 - An eternal mediator in Jesus Christ, Hebrews 6:16-20
 - Our hardships and difficulties do not impact God's presence, Psalm 22:1, James 1:17-18
 - “Do not be anxious about anything...” Philippians 4:6

Does my worry decrease as my prayers increase?

Purpose 3: To make us a more thankful people

- What is man that God is mindful of us? Psalm 8:3-4
 - When do we most often drift away from God? Romans 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:1-2, Luke 18:11 (Jacob, Gen. 32:9-10)
 - Understanding the true depth of God's mercy toward us, Romans 8:31-32, Colossians 4:2
- “In everything, give thanks!” – Is Christianity driven by guilt?
 - My need for God never departs, because I still struggle with sin
 - My thanks never stop, because God never stops blessing me

Does asking for God's blessing help me to see it?

Purpose 4: To make us more mindful of others

- How does gratitude change the way we look at other people?
 - 1 Timothy 6:17-19 – trust in God who richly provides... be generous and ready to share.”
 - If I know God hears me, it’s an opportunity to speak for someone else, Job 42:8-9, Luke 22:31-32
- Praying for others forces me to learn more about their needs
 - Do we offer bland, general prayers? Or do we make specific requests?
 - Confess to one another, pray for one another, James 5:16
 - 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 – What good can come of the prayer for others?

Does praying for others lead me to do for others?

Purpose 5: To help us prioritize the issues in our lives

- Our prayers should never be based on the impulse of the moment, James 4:3
 - Jer. 29:10-14 – When God is our priority, our prayers are heard
- Our prayers reveal what is important to us, Romans 12:9-18
 - Our spiritual health, and that of those around us
 - The physical and spiritual well-being of others
 - The work of the church and furtherance of the Gospel
 - That God's will be done in our lives and in this world

Are my prayers reflecting a spiritual or carnal life?

Purpose 6: To teach us to wait with patience

- How many times are godly people told to wait on the answer to their prayer?
 - 1 Peter 1:10-12 – the wait for God's promise to be revealed to mankind
- As Christians, we are called to wait continually!
 - When should I expect my answer? 2 Peter 3:8-9, Luke 18:6-8
 - Be steadfast, watchful in prayer, Colossians 4:2

Am I more patient as I work through life's trials?

Purpose 7: To keep us focused on our greater hope

- If our hope is in this life alone... 1 Corinthians 15:18
 - The destruction of this world, 2 Peter 3:10-12
 - The redemption of our bodies, “if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience,” Romans 8:25
 - Rev. 22:20 – the last expressed hope of the Bible
- Jesus’ coming is not something we just put aside!
 - Waiting for the coming of our Lord, 1 Cor. 1:7, 1 Thess. 1:10
 - Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16 – Would I rather be with God? (Phil. 3:23-24)

Do I pray like a permanent resident, or a pilgrim?

Do my prayers bring me closer to God?

Is the nature of my requests changing?

Are my prayers making me more spiritual?

Does praying alleviate my worries?

God's kingdom will grow when God's
people offer "effectual prayers"