

that their (culture) is so great, and they're so high, that they just wouldn't depend upon prayer. They believe that it's kind of a crime to pray to God, and that it just some myth that somebody dreamed up just to talk to somebody in the sky, hoping that somebody else would be listening to you. So we discover that many people are prayerless because they just do not believe in God, and therefore have no faith in it.

We have tried to see why people are prayerless, now let's see what Jesus taught about prayer.

## II. Jesus taught prayer

We notice in our text that after hearing Jesus pray on this occasion, the disciples realized that it was this fellowship and communion with his heavenly Father that blessed him and gave him spiritual resources.

They recalled that (John the Baptist) had also been a man of unusual power and that he believed in prayer so strongly that he taught his disciples to pray. One of the disciples of Jesus asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." They knew that Jesus prayed in all walks of life, he prayed at his baptism. They brought (little children) to him, he prayed for them...he prayed in the hour of popularity, after the healing of Peter's mother-in-law. He prayed all night

*el bows it; I heard miss two days my wife knows it. when el  
PRAYERLESSNESS - Luke 11:1 miss three days the public knows it  
if we substitute prayer for practice "a Xian could say the same thing  
Intro: When he night prayer his life & work about show the effects.*

Jesus had been praying in a certain place, and one of his disciples said to him, "Teach us to pray," as John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray." When we think about a prayerless life and prayerlessness, we think of many, many things on this subject of prayer. And some people really look at prayer and think of it and feel that it is not to any advantage at all, therefore, they will say to you, "What's the good of prayer, why pray?" Many people are like that. They think that prayer is something (like a machine), and there are times when prayer is good, and there are other times when prayer is not good.

### I. Let us think of the reasons why some people are prayerless.

1. Some feel that it is not necessary in the first place, they feel that they can get along in their lives without prayer. Therefore, they do not worry about it. They may think that things are going so wonderfully well, that life is complete for them, there is plenty of money in the bank, and they have good health, and probably they are moving out to the suburbs, and they're living without the worry about God or anything else.

They do not pray (until life goes on the rocks). Or they feel that prayer is only good when some tragedy has to be



me. There is a great crisis, and then they feel that well, prayer is necessary. There are lots of people who feel that prayer is good during the (days of war) that when we're in great (trouble) then we ought to go to church, we ought to go to the house of prayer, we ought to pray for our loved ones, and we ought to have prayer in behalf of those who're on the battlefield, but when the war is over, some of these same individuals feel that prayer is not necessary any longer. And that they can operate life without prayer at all.

2. In the second place there are others who are prayerless because (they do not believe in it.) They do not believe that prayer accomplishes anything. They perhaps have prayed, but they have (prayed without results), and therefore they are prayerless...they do (not have any faith) in prayer.

Many of these are like (spoiled children). they believe that they ought to have privileges, and they believe that they ought to get what they want, and that prayer should change things for them and they ought to bring about whatever they want. But since it hasn't, then they have no faith in it. Well we know that prayer will change things. Prayer will not only change things, but it will change people. It really changes people more, we believe, than it changes

things, because it will mean the (power of God released) in their lives. But you take a (little baby) and he cries for his bottle, and unless he gets it he will throw a tantrum. And some people can't bear to see him upset, and so they will give him special privileges. Many people (throw prayer) aside because of the same reason. They are not mature, and they believe that because God does not answer their prayers in the way they want them answered, then they'll go on through life prayerless.

In (James 4:3), he says, "Ye ask, and have not because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lot." Many prayers are selfish, and when we pray selfish prayers, we may be assured that God will give consideration to such prayers with expedient thought. Therefore people do not pray, and are prayerless, because they do not feel it really works for them.

3. In the third place there are people who are prayerless because (they are atheists in their belief). "What is prayer?" they say, "That I should have to depend upon prayer in this lifetime, why I have everything I need, and want." And some of these people are people who are (educated) and they feel that prayer is a little bit (beneath their dignity)



3. Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Let your will be done. In the lives of other people, but you say, I want to do as I please; now that God's word might be operated and his law might be obeyed, here's a request here. How can they be exposed to those statutes if they seldom attend Sunday school and worship service?

Well, they can learn otherwise, mainly if they'll take the Bible in their homes. Let your will be done on earth, in my life, as your will is obediently done in heaven.

This certainly puts great importance on God's glory and his kingdom, because they come first before our wants. In your prayer life, seek ye first the kingdom of God.

The other three petitions which are manward.

1. (Give us this day, our daily bread.) This is a primary  
is in God's interest, in every aspect of our lives.

Give us bread, means (every thing necessary) to sustain life.

This petition underscores our dependence upon complete dependence on God for every day blessings. To mention to God our physical needs is to reveal the facts that we should pray for our livelihood as well as work for it. We know that

(business people) feel like they need a coffee break for refreshment, and yet some of those same business people never

prior to the selection of the 12 disciples. He was praying when he was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. He prayed in Gethsemane...he prayed on the cross...prayer was the habit of his life.

We know that these early disciples followed his teaching, because they prayed in the selection of a (successor to Judas.) They continued in (one accord in prayer) until the mighty power of the Holy Spirit came upon Paul when he met the master on the way to Damascus. Prayer opened the (prison) for Peter and set him free. The (jailhouse at Phillipi) gave up its prisoners when Paul and Silas prayed.

On one occasion when (Jesus had healed the boy) with the dumb spirit, whom the disciples had been unable to heal, he was explaining his success by saying, "This kind of thing can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting."

Therefore (his disciples were interested.) They wanted to know how to pray, and how not to be prayerless, because of its paralyzing effect upon their Christian lives. Thus, Jesus gives to them, the (Lord's Prayer.) It can perhaps be read or repeated in about 3 minutes. And around the world, this prayer is offered up many times each day. It is looked upon as a model prayer, and Jesus said pray after this manner. If you want to get rid of your prayerlessness, then mold your prayer life after this prayer.



(First) we see the invitation, "Our father, which art in heaven." This speaks of the (person involved). We must realize that we are talking with God, our heavenly father. We have had the spiritual birth. To as many as received him to them gave he rights to become the sons of God, which were born of God. And we see here a (warm closeness, a family) relationship in prayer. This intimate relationship is not to degenerate into disrespect, for he said, "Our father, which is in heaven," (in heaven). Truly we can go boldly to the throne of grace, but it emphasizes the family relationship of all Christians. Our father, not merely my father, but here is one who is ready to hear all of the pleas of his followers.

Jesus teaches them how to get rid of their prayerlessness by setting forth six petitions, equally divided, three Godward, and three manward.

1. The first request is "Hallowed be thy name". Let your name be holy. (Dr. R. G. Lee) was traveling on a train with two small granddaughters, and had been notified by their mother that he might need to assist the smaller one with prayer. At prayer time the older child successfully quoted the model prayer and then some additional personal requests. The second child began the example prayer, "Our father, which art in heaven", she said, then paused, turned

to her grandfather, "Hallowed be thy name, grandfather," she said, "What is hallowed?" Well, he said he did not have time to look up in the Greek New Testament what is hallowed. Well let your name be holy is the petition. Hallowed means holy, the request is that God's holiness be recognized everywhere throughout the entire world. Does your life declare unquestionably that your God is holy? Supremely holy? God's reputation is dependent upon your holy living. (Amos, the preacher said that the living of the people of his day was "To profane my holy name") It was tragic that some people enjoyed the family relationship with God, and yet they cared so little about his reputation, and about his interests among other people.

2. The second request of our model prayer is also Godward, "let your kingdom come." This is a desire for the rule of God, and the reign of God in the hearts of the citizens of the world. This speaks of divine control. This puts Satan out of control. And this would do away with all corruption, all dishonesty, and all sin, to let your kingdom come because we are instructed that one day the end will come and the kingdom will be delivered up to God the father who shall reign in power.



that are lost and undone. The thousands of people without Christ, just waiting to be gathered in. Where are the laborers? They are not going forth, they are not responding to the call. Jesus

Jesus said, pray thy kingdom come. Pray the father to send forth laborers, he said. So many of the things we want are secondary things. At least they're besides the main point and purpose of God, the coming of his kingdom. We're more interested in our own little kingdom, we pray:

God bless me, and my wife  
My son John and his wife  
Us four, and no more. Amen.

We find the heart and center of prayer as it relates to the waiting multitudes. Look at it. Now which of you, if he have a friend go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, friend, lend me three loaves for a friend of mine is come to me and I have nothing to set before him. Well, we see here three friends mentioned here. God is the friend to whom we go. It is the midnight hour and what do we ask for when we go, that he shall on the basis of our friendship give us a blessing for our own need? We go with an outstretched hand toward God, our friend, the other hand is stretched toward a friend in need.

take a prayer break, either in the morning, noon, or night. Here is a request that God gives the provisions of life.

2. Here is a request for the forgiveness of sin. We are to pray for our daily bread and for the forgiveness of sin. We need forgiveness, as often as we need daily bread, and our need for forgiveness is as urgent as that of bread. And God can give both generously. Many of us fail in this relationship with God and with other human beings. We build up barriers to prevent forgiving another person. We seal our hearts, that God forgiveness cannot enter. The Spirit which is open to receiving love is of necessity open to showing love. So we see the explanation of this petition. It's due to our weakness...the desire for ourselves and for forgiveness.

The Christian learns that forgiveness of the past is something that he must have guidance and strength for the future, and lead us not into temptation, and we must likewise keep ourselves from enticement.

3. Therefore the matter of temptation formulates the third manward part of the petition.

Jesus closes this suggestion as to how to be prayerless with the doxology, for his is the kingdom. The need of



our souls for cleansing and of your development, is for God's honor and God's glory.

Now as we pin down this business of prayerlessness, let us come to the next point.

III. Why should people pray?

Why should we pray, why should I pray, why should a Christian pray?

1. To get better acquainted with God. We ought to pray that we might better know God, and come to understand him in a better way. Because of sin, men forgets what God is like, but through prayer we can come to an understanding of the likeness of God. Jesus said, when you pray, say our father. That, within itself, settles all the misconceptions about the eternal God. They must come to know him. He is like a loving, heavenly father.

You remember there have been times in your life that you would say to a younger member of the family, "Well, it won't do any good to ask Daddy, I know he won't let us go." Now you go back and you understand this. It's an actual tribute to your father. There were some things which were out for us. There was no need to discuss them, there was no need to beg and plead to try to get through, because those things had been settled a long time ago. And your Daddy understood

that for some of those things, they would just not do. Well, I didn't know about those things, and you didn't know about them, but you had to learn about them, and you learned about them by asking.

Now Luke gives us three pictures of God here which we may just glance at here. In the 11th chapter it is implied that God may at times seem like an unkind friend, who would not get up at midnight, or an unnatural father who gives his son stones for bread, but that's not so. In the 18th chapter, God is again misunderstood as the unjust judge, but if you will search that you will find that it's different. Therefore prayer will help us to become acquainted with God.

*Some one "Lean Prayer + Not Lurser Make Poor Christians"*

2. In the second place (this is the way to bring his kingdom in.) Jesus said, thy kingdom come. We're to pray for his kingdom. The Christian cannot overlook the kingdom of God. The urgent need of this world today is that more people might come to know this. We know there is going to be trouble, there will be wars, and rumors of wars. We know that all these important things are going to take place in our world. But we as Christians need to pray for the fields are white unto harvest.

This is reason enough to pray without ceasing. As we get a fresh vision of the field, we see the masses on this earth



any wickedness in the world that need conquering? Are there any (trials) that may be awaiting you? Is not (death) before you? Are you fully prepared for all this? Do you have any responsibilities at all? Get these things before you.

Third, read the Bible. If you want to know what to do

about this prayerlessness, pick up the book of books, and read, and you will find that it furnished something that will answer your case. If you are depressed with a sense of guilt, read the 51st Psalm, and say, "Have mercy upon me O God, according to thy loving kindness."

If you are under affliction, read the 25th Psalm, "The troubles of my heart are enlarged."

If you're depressed in spirit, read the 42nd Psalm, "Oh my God, my soul is cast down within me."

In the fourth place, you will be heard according to your prayer. Remember you are prayerless today. Now you're going to be heard in prayer, according to the amount of prayer you send up. How is it with (children in a family)? One of them will come and ask you something and he is heard. We know that all of us may not be finished workmen at this subject

Get the picture. You as a Christian, you are a friend in between, and thus, that's what prayer means, God pours through us and bestows through us his power. If some midnight hour somebody should come, then we'd call upon God, then he blesses this friend, through us.

3. We ought to pray in the third place, and not be proud because (our very lives depend upon it), that is spiritually. That's exactly what happens. Our life depends upon whether or not we pray, or do not pray, spiritually. Jesus said, pray, give us this day, give us this day's food. Well God will supply all our needs according to Christ Jesus in glory. But we must come to recognize that God is over all of the circumstances of our lives. We must know that God prepares for each day, and we do not pray for a certain thing, we know that God may give us spinach when some of us may want ice cream. We cannot accuse him of being unjust. Some people raise the question why, (why does this have to happen to me?) Why did it have to happen? (Why does the preacher preach on this text here.) Well, he's frail, and he's fallible and he's human...that's true. But yet God's provisions are not always exactly what we think we need. We have a new nature, a new life as Christians, and therefore it must be



developed. Prayer is one of the ways that it's developed, that's why Jesus said "Pray without ceasing." This is one work of faith. Sometimes we wonder in our work in the kingdom, we say, well we're not getting anywhere, things are not moving, we get discouraged, but we must always recognize that God can be trusted, and we learn to know him in prayer, and we must believe in his kingdom, the things he has prepared for our souls. There is every reason on earth for us to pray. Your heavenly father knoweth what you have need of, even before you ask him. You see, God knows, now what we need to do is to find out what God wants us to do, which way he wants us to go, and in what channel he wants our lives to fit into. Therefore he has provided ways for us *like Simon fighting a fire without water - a bird trying to fly without wings* to eliminate this prayerlessness.

IV. What can I do about this?

Say today, that you know about prayer, public prayer, family prayer, private prayer...and you know that it's coming to Jesus Christ, and it is calling upon him, but in your heart you are also conscious of prayerlessness. You know that you do not have any earnestness in your prayer. You know that it doesn't seem to be a privilege and a freedom. You know that it's dull and it's lifeless for you, and you're

even apt to (go to sleep) while you are praying. You say, I cannot pray as I once did. I do not love the Sabbath day as I used to. I used to number the days between the time that I would be able to go back to church, and there listen to the word of God, but today somehow, My mind wanders, and I go to sleep during the service, and there's no joy in my heart at all. What am I going to do about this?

First of all, lay it before God. If you cannot pray as you once did, Then remember to spread this out before God. You remember Hezekiah received a blasphemous message from Rabshakeh and when he received that message he went up into the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord.

You remember when John's disciples took up his body and buried it, they went and told Jesus.

When Martha and Mary sent unto Jesus, they said nothing but, "Lord, he whom thou lovest is sick."

In the second place, evaluate your condition. Think about it. Think about your condition...cause it to pass by in review. Go into the closet, walk out into the park, walk into the fields somewhere, and reflect upon it, think upon it. Is there nothing in the world to pray about? Is there nothing to cause you to get excited about prayer? Is there no longer



Norman Harrison in "Life in a Life of Prayer" tells how Charles Inglis, while making the voyage to America a number of years ago, learned from the devout and godly captain, of an experience which he had but recently with George Muller of Bristol. It seems that they had encountered a very dense fog. Because of it the captain had remained on the bridge continuously for twenty-four hours, when Mr. Muller came to him and said, "Captain, I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon." When informed that it was impossible, he replied: "Very well, if your ship cannot take me, God will find some other way. I have never broken an engagement for fifty-seven years. Let us go down into the chart room and pray."

The captain continues the story thus: "I looked at that man of God and thought to myself, What lunatic asylum could that man have come from. I never heard of such a thing as this. 'Mr. Muller,' I said, 'do you know how dense this fog is?' 'No, he replied, 'my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life.' He knelt down and prayed one of those simple prayers, and when he had finished I was going to pray; but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray. 'Firstly' he said, 'because you do not believe God will, and secondly, I believe God has, and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.' I looked at him, and George Muller said, 'Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years, and there has never been a single day I have failed to get an audience with the King. Get up and open the door and you will find the fog has gone.' I got up and the fog was indeed gone. George Muller was in Quebec Saturday afternoon for his engagement."

What a trial!

O what peace we often forfeit,  
 O what needless pain we bear,  
 all because we do not carry  
 Every thing to God in prayer -

Dear -  
 Pray for my child, he  
 has only few hours to  
 live - I haven't  
 prayed enough, good to  
 church -

of prayer, but we know in a family, there may be different children of different ages. One may come in (broken accent) and yet he'll be heard as well as the first who may be able to speak fluently. Or yet there is one who (cannot talk) yet, speak, and he will come and stretch out his little hand, and he will not be despised or refused, but he pleads and God is going to answer you as you plead. Your prayer is not recorded according to arithmetic, or how loud they may be, or how fine they may be, but of the sincerity of a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

In the fifth place, consider your encouragements to pray. Prayer is important in the Christian's life. Your spiritual prosperity depends entirely upon it. You are to pray everywhere at all times without ceasing, and faint not, the Bible says. Think about these encouragements that you have to pray. The cause of prayer. Is there not a cause? Are there not things to encourage you? Think, your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sin has hid his face from you. And he will not hear.

If you are (sincere in your researches) you will soon put your finger on the enemy...perhaps some known duty that you have omitted, perhaps there is somebody that you have improperly not regarded. Perhaps there is ingratitude for some de-

to 2nd 20 25 61 AM



Just Suppose <sup>-16-</sup> There had been a Must them - Jerusalem  
June - 33 A.D. Prayer meeting was called after our down  
iverance that God has made. Perhaps there is some ungenerous  
temper as directed and you have grieved him.

Is there no secret thing by which you may account for this?  
You may be as Jonah, the gourd may wither above your head,  
but there was a worm at the root of the gourd.

We ought to truly discover (what is hindering) our enjoyment  
in prayer. Whatever this may be, it must be, it may be found  
out. David said once, if I regard iniquity in my heart, the  
Lord will not hear me.

It will be well for us to walk so as to please God. Prayer  
is (more than just a simple duty), it is more than just a routine,  
piece of business, or a job to do, but it is something that  
Christians do because they like to do it. It produces  
happiness, it aids our welfare, it brings fellowship with  
God, and we know that when thou prayest in secret, the  
heavenly father will recompense thee openly. Prayer is  
essential. Jesus assures us that prayer never is fruitless.

It is bound to be rewarded with the blessings of life, openly  
before the eyes of men. It is our aim to contact God. The  
purpose of real prayer then, is to see the face of God, to  
listen to him, and to receive the purifying strength. We  
need more of God in our lives.

Perhaps hardest thing to do is wait. Times when we  
must simply pray & wait patiently until he is  
there's a bit of poetry:  
must simply pray & wait patiently until he is  
there's a bit of poetry:

"I often say my prayers, but do I ever pray  
And do the wishes of my heart go with the words I say?  
I may as well kneel down and worship God's of stone,  
As offer to the living God, a prayer of words alone.  
For words without the heart, the Lord will never hear,  
Nor will he to those lips attend whose prayers are not  
sincere.

↓ But so many things interfered that the 120  
members of the ju. Church only a handful could be  
present.  
Peter & his wife had to leave for their cottage on Lake  
Gentile for the week.  
Bartholomew had guest to drop in & of course  
could not come.  
Philip & his family had been up late at  
a party the night before & was too tired.  
Matthew had to see a man about a business  
deal.  
James just had to stay at home & mow the  
lawn.  
John decided that prayer was for the preachers  
& a few women -  
Result - no present -