

Prayer

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1. How does scripture serve our prayers?

- We see the early church praying – Acts 4:24-26
- This a quote from Psalm 2
- The early Church is praying psalms
- We can pray scripture
- What we are praying is the meaning of the text not just saying words
- Both scripture and prayer should draw us closer to God
- Scripture does go hand and hand with prayer
- They are both tools to draw us closer to Him

2. How to persevere in prayer?

- Luke 18:1-8

- Not losing heart sounds easy but in practice becomes a large ordeal
- Your faith is shown through perseverance
- We need perseverance to keep the faith – Colossians 1:9
- 5 things to help you persevere in prayer

1. Be watchful in prayer – Mark 14:37-38

- Be mentally awake
- Being awake to Gods leading and guidance

2. Be thankful in prayer - Phil 4:6-7

- We often forget to be thankful in prayer
- God has done so many amazing things we have a lot to be thankful for

3. Continue to pray – 2 Timothy 4:7

- If something has been working, keep it going
- Don't forsake the things that are going well

4. Pray for the leading of the Lord – Psalm 32:8

- God guides and directs our path
- We pray for wherever he wants and

5. Pray that God would open doors for the gospel – Acts 16:14

- This is something that Paul prayed for
- Today we are to pray for opportunities to share

- Perseverance is needed to be able stick out the faith – Ephesians 6:18

- Hebrews 12:1-2,7

- The only way to run a race is to pace yourself

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3. Can prayer do any good in a world that has gone so bad?

- This is the root reason why many people don't pray today – Mark 9:24
- They look at the world this bad and say if God was that good than this wouldn't exist
- This thinking effects our prayer life as well
- If I don't think that God can do anything in this world than I am not going to pray – Mark 11:24
- We don't pray to get something from God – Hebrews 4:16
- God isn't a genie in a lamp
- We pray to draw closer to our creator, to thank him, to praise him
- This isn't a transaction like if you give God enough of your time than he is going to answer you
- Yes, God can do something in this fallen world
- Man's wrong choices have led to the fallen world and now we get to live in it
- We have done this, I am just Glad that God loves us
- Since he loves us he still hears us and works in the mess of a fallen world in which we live – **1 John 5:14-15**

"I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right; but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation may be on the Lord's side."

- Abraham Lincoln

“At its deepest level, prayer is fellowship with God: enjoying His company, waiting upon His will, thanking Him for His mercies . . . listening in the silence for what He has to say to us.” – Billy Graham