



Oscar Chavez - Lead Pastor - 10/1/23

Series: The Importance of Prayer.

*"Helping people experience the hope
found in a life-changing relationship with Jesus".*

1 Peter 3:12

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer

Philippians 4

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 32:6,8....

⁶ Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

- *Many times, we don't realize how important prayer is until prayer is the only thing we have left.*

I. What does the Bible tell us about the importance of prayer?

Luke 18:1

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

A. Because prayer makes us more like Jesus.

If we look at the life of Jesus, we see that he was persistent in prayer.

Luke 5:16

But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

6:12

One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night.

9:28

Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

Jesus always prayed and gave us the example to never give up.

- In John 11 when He faced the death of His friend Lazarus He prayed

40 *Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"*

41 *So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.*

42 *I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."*

- When he saw the people in need of food, before he fed the 5000, He prayed.

Matt. 14

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. ¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

- In the Garden before He was taken by the Romans, when He was about to go through the biggest trial in history.

Matt. 26

36 *Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray.*

39 *And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."*

- Even as he was hanging from the cross, He prayed for His enemies.

Luke 23:34 *"Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they're doing...'*

Luke 18:1

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

B. Because it helps us overcome the worries and anxieties of life.

Philippians 4. ⁶ *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

C. Prayer is important because it will help us to be renewed or encouraged when we are tired from life's adverse situations.

Psalms 51:10 ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

D. Prayer is important because it provides answers.

Praying and listening to the answers God gives you can help you better understand your purpose in life. God will help you understand why you are here and what you can do to return to live with Him after this life.

- Because God always hears me

John 11

41 *"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42. I knew that you always hear me,*

E. Prayer helps you find direction in your life.

When you privately pray to God, you can work through serious decisions in your life. God always listens and often provides the specific answers and guidance we seek. Even when He chooses not to answer immediately or in the way we might have hoped, prayer itself is a way to find peace.

Psalms 32:6,8.... ⁶ *Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;*

⁸ *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

F. Prayer gives you strength to avoid temptation.

Jesus counseled His disciples, Matthew 26:41 *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation"*. Through prayer, we can overcome temptations to sin. Pray for God's help to keep you from making wrong choices. This will give you the strength to do what is right

II. How should we pray?

- With Confidence:

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

- He hears you
- John 11. *"Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"*

- With humbleness:

2 Chronicles 7:14

¹⁴ *if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

God wants to do amazing things; I believe that we can see the Glory of God if we humble ourselves and pray.