

1 Thessalonians 5:17 / "Why Pray?"
Prayer is essential to a vibrant spiritual life.

Why Pray?

- Paul's command for them to pray had nothing to do with seeking what they wanted.

This is what prayer has been brought down to.

- Instead, prayer is about the inner life of the saint of God.

- It is the inner person that needs redemption, change, and cleansing. Prayer intends to impact life at this level.

Why Pray? Because a Christ-Follower has been Instructed to Pray

- Paul makes an imperative statement here. He is directing them that prayer be an everyday part of their lives.

- This is not unlike what those of the Old Testament were commanded regarding knowing the commandments of God.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 "You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up."

- It may not be in style to say so, but there are some things obedience requires, prayer is one.

- Prayer is essential to the Christian walk but contrary to the physical life.

- Living in submission to God requires a new way of thinking and acting. Before, a person "listened" to him or herself. Now, there is the need to learn to listen to God.

- Acquiring the practice of prayer is a fundamental step in the new life.

Why Pray? Because Understanding is Needed

- It is said, "God's ways are not our ways." This is true.

- To be in sync with God, to know His heart, to live in such a manner that is consistent with Him. Prayer is necessary.

- Natural understanding cannot be relied upon as a gauge in knowing the mind of God. Just because we think something to be so, doesn't mean God does. (This is assumption).

Why Pray? Because of the Relational Nature of Christianity

- Remember, walking in relationship with God is like dancing. He leads, we follow.

- Prayer is dictated if one is to follow God's lead.

- Prayer is not necessary if Christianity were not relationship based. Then all that would be need was to follow the "rules."

- But, Christianity is relational. God delights in fellowship with His children. A soul rejoices in communing with God. This is the substance of our faith.

Why Pray? Because of the Needs of Others.

- In ourselves, we are powerless to give what others need. If you believe this, you will pray.
- We can assist. We can encourage. We can empathize. But, these are all limited to the physical component of life.
- People need a vital and active relationship with God. Only intercessory prayer can help them realize this truth.