

## *Why Pray?*

**INTRODUCTION:** Are you satisfied with your Prayer Life?

- Pray often - 1 Chronicles 16:11 (KJV), Luke 18:1, 1 Thess. 5:17
- *“Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on their knees.”*

### **1.- WHAT IS PRAYER?**

- Prayer is talking WITH God, not just TO God.
- Do we just “say” prayers, or do we “*communicate*” with God?
- Prayer is based on a RELATIONSHIP with God.

### **2.- WHY DON'T WE PRAY?**

- 1 Because we really don't believe that prayer WORKS.
  - We believe God CAN, but don't believe He really WILL.

**James 5:16** – “*avails much*” = ‘has great power and brings great results’

- **5:17-18** – The example of Elijah – 1 Kings 17:1

**James 4:1-2** – God doesn't ANSWER because we don't ASK.

- 1 Because prayer is WORK – If other things worked, we'd do them!
  - Jesus WORKED at prayer – Mt. 14:23, Luke 6:12, Luke 22:39-44
  - Matthew 26:40-41 – Prayer was worth it ... to Jesus.

### **3.- HOW THEN SHOULD WE PRAY?**

**Luke 11:1** – NOT “*how*” to pray ... BUT “*to*” pray.

- **11:2** – “*WHEN you pray*” ... JUST DO IT!
- They had left “*prayer*” up to the “*professionals*”.
- Jesus prayed out of LOVE for God, not FEAR.

**Matthew 6:9-13** – **6 PRINCIPLES TO PRAYER:**

- 1.- Prayer Is A Relationship – **6:9** – “*Our Father*”.
  - As God's child, you can come to Him anytime about anything.
- 2.- Pray In His Will – **6:10** – John 14:13
- 3.- Pray For Your Needs – **6:11** – Your Father CARES!
- 4.- Pray That All Hindrances Be Removed – **6:12**
  - Is anything hindering your relationship? **6:14-15**, Ps. 66:18
- 5.- Pray For Strength To Live The Christian Life – **6:13a**
  - Prayer FOCUSES on the POWER of God, not your problem.
- 6.- Pray, Then Leave It In God's Hands – **6:13b**
  - It's God's “*kingdom, power, glory*” – **7:9-11**

**CONCLUSION:** God WANTS you to pray – Jeremiah 33:3

- God makes a difference ... so ... PRAY!