

## Prayer #1

Prayer may be thought most important part of service, but often shortest  
Prayer is probably the spiritual duty that most people struggle greatest with

### I. First, We See the Importance of Prayer

- A. First see it in Paul's verb in verse 1 - "I urge" - "Parakaleo" - "exhort"
- B. Then see it in the phrase "First of all" - Above all- before all things
- C. This is one of many times that Paul exhorts people to pray
  - 1. I Thessalonians 5:17 - pray without ceasing- then v. 25- Pray for us
    - a. Rom. 15:30 - 32; Ephesians 6:18-20; Hebrews 13:18, 19
    - b. Since all scriptures are God-breathed- this is Spirit exhorting us
    - c. We need many exhortations because prayer is hard work
- D. Separates Christian from unbeliever-Only Christians mourn lack of prayer
- E. Prayer is important because it sanctifies all other things- I Tim. 4:4, 5

### II. How Does Paul Tell us to Pray?

- A. In verse 1 Paul uses four different words to describe Paul
  - 1. Thanksgiving is the easiest one to differentiate- to give thanks
  - 2. Other three words difficult to define the difference between them
    - a. Supplication simply means to make a request for someone
    - b. Prayer is simple word that means to ask of God
  - 3. Third word- Intercessions - Only found here and 4:15 in NT
    - a. But verb form is found in Romans 8:34; Heb. 7:25 of Christ
    - b. Also found of Spirit in Romans 8:26, 27 - "for us"
    - c. Found two places of men- both in bad sense- Rom. 11:2; Acts 25:24
  - 4. General Idea would be to speak to God on behalf of someone else
    - a. Prayer can be discovered by natural or general revelation
      - 1. But idea of intercessory prayer only comes by special revelation
    - b. Most things regarding our relation to God can't be done by others
      - 1. Prayer is one thing that we can do on behalf of others-Jam. 5:16

### III. Who are We to Pray For

- A. In this scripture we are told specifically to pray for those in authority
  - 1. But it also says that we should pray for all people
- B. Two main groups we are told to pray for - saved and unsaved
  - 1. Main reason we pray for unsaved is for them to be saved- Rom. 10:1
  - 2. In praying for saved- we are more able to know God's will
- C. Also commanded to pray for enemies to be perfect- Matt. 5:44, 45

### IV. Why are We to Pray?

- A. For quiet and peaceful life- idea is that we pray for results - 2 reasons
  - 1. We pray because we have love and concern for someone
  - 2. We pray because we expect results from prayer- Heb. 11:6; I Jn 5:14, 15
  - 3. When convinced of own inability- then we pray-(Jn 15:5 with Ph. 4:13)
    - a. 2 Cor. 1:10, 11; Isaiah 37:21; Philippians 1:18, 19
- B. We acknowledge that there is a sovereignty of God in prayer
  - 1. But also know that we should pray for blessing- 2 Chron. 7:14
- C. True Calvinist is one who has the only real reason for praying
  - 1. Because God uses this as means to bring about sovereign will

Conclusion: Would we be happier if God didn't command us to pray?

- A. We should have same attitude as Samuel- I Samuel 12:23