

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

I. THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER IN YOUR LIFE

A. WHAT IS PRAYER?

1. Prayer's most basic definition would simply be, _____ to God directly and _____.
2. Prayer is _____ with God as you foster a genuine relationship with Him; every good relationship must have _____. (Isa. 65:24)
3. Prayer results in _____ from God. (Jer. 33:3; James 5:16b)

B. WHY IS PRAYER NEEDED?

1. Prayer was _____ (Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; Heb. 5:7) and even _____ (Matt. 5:44; 9:35-38; Luke 18:1) by the Lord Jesus.
2. Prayer is to be an integral part of the Christian Life as the believer _____ in Christ and _____ fruit. (John 15:1-7; 1 Thess. 5:16-18)
3. Prayer reflects a dependency upon the Lord which _____ and _____ Him. (Heb. 11:6; Matt. 21:22; John 14:13; Eph. 3:20-21; James 1:5-6)

II. THE POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH

A. THE NECESSITY FOR A PRAYING CHURCH CONGREGATION (Ephesians 6:18)

1. Prayer to God by our congregation is very needed in light of the _____ we are engaged in. (Eph. 6:10-17)
2. Prayer to God by our congregation is needed with _____ regularity (“*praying always*”), and with _____ / _____ requests in mind (“*with all prayer and supplications*”). (6:18a)
3. Prayer to God by our congregation is to be done by means of the direction and power of the _____, and it should involve mental _____, persistence, and _____ for others. (6:18b)

B. THE NECESSITY FOR A PRAYING CHURCH BOARD (Acts 6:4)

1. Prayer to God by our church leaders must be a high _____, and it must precede and accompany their _____. (Acts 6:4, 6; 13:3)
2. Prayer to God by our church leaders must accompany their _____ the Word. (Acts 20:32, 36)
3. Prayer to God by our church leaders needs to be _____ (“*always*”), _____, (“*fervently*”), _____ (“*for you*”), and purposeful. (Colossians 4:12)

* What is one of the most loving, beneficial things you can do for those who are hurting and struggling in your church? (James 5:16)