

## To-Do in 2025: Prayer

### Key Scriptures:

Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

James 4:2 Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

Romans 8:34 It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Matthew 6:9-13 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (see also Luke 11:1-4)

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:19-22 <sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh . . . <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

### Key Point: Pray

"When I pray 'coincidences happen', and when I don't pray, they don't." (William Temple). "Pray and let God worry." (Martin Luther).

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever used prayer as a last resort like a desperate "Hail Mary" pass at the end of a game?

**Reflect, Think, & Share:** Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions from the scripture or the sermon with the group.

- If we turn to prayer as a final desperate measure, only after all our own efforts have been exhausted, what does this reveal about our view of the following:
  - Prayer
  - Ourselves
  - God
- If you truly believed that your prayers make no difference and that "everything would happen exactly as it does" without you praying, how would this impact your prayer life?
- Describe a time you prayed and saw clear and definite results. How did this answered prayer spur you on to pray more passionately?
- What core issues does Jesus address as He teaches His followers to pray? Which of these areas do you tend to focus on the most when you pray? Which do you need to focus on more?
- According to Jesus' model prayer, what is prayer's true purpose? What does prayer have to do with denying ourselves?
- What does the writer of Hebrews say is the basis for being able to boldly come before God in prayer?
- What are the benefits of setting a specific time and place for prayer? If you have done this, share with the group how it has helped you in your prayer life. If you haven't but want to, tell your group members when and where you plan to pray, and invite them to encourage you in this new discipline.

**Start doing:** Another helpful discipline is to write down your prayer requests along with the date, and a place to note how the prayers were answered. This kind of prayer journal can be a "faith encourager" when you begin to see how God answers prayers over the weeks, months, and years.

**Prayer Requests.** Take some time to pray together. Use the key scriptures as a guide in praying the scriptures back to God.

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