

Taking a Stand to Kneel

By Donna Pyle

Prayer

Open with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your study of the Word.

The Prayer Struggle

Most of us struggle with prayer. Even though we may have good intentions to start every day with prayer, sometimes our days blur by so fast that we forget to pray, or we make a mental note to pray later. When later comes, assuming that we remember at all, we rush through our prayers with hollow words. What do we find so difficult about prayer? Simply put, there are a lot of variables in prayer. There's no dress code, specific location, or correct wording prescribed for prayer. No one is looking over our shoulder to make sure we've said our prayers. In short, no one holds us accountable.

What does **Colossians 4:2** say about prayer?

Devoted, watchful, and thankful are powerful yet simple words. We don't need fancy words or formal language to pray. We pray from exactly where we are spiritually, emotionally, and relationally: real words about real life.

What does God promise in **Jeremiah 29:12**?

God listens to us. Much like a parent who longs to hear about their child's trials, tribulations, and joys each day, our heavenly Father longs for that intimate relationship with us, as well. If you're angry about something or at someone, tell Him. He already knows it (**Psalms 139:7-10**). What is the benefit of putting those feelings into words? When we articulate our struggles, we can begin listening for God's guidance toward resolution. Then we still ourselves to listen to Him. We tune in to Him rather than continue broadcasting. In that cherished time, the Holy Spirit directs and guides us, imparts wisdom, and gives us peace.

The Power of Prayer

A vibrant and active prayer life teaches us without a doubt that God resides in the details. Scripture is clear that everything can be affected by prayer. How do you see that truth in **Mark 9:23** and **James 5:16**?

God's plan for His kingdom and eternity will happen exactly as He has planned it. However, there are variables in how that will be accomplished. That's where



prayer and faith play an active part. When we continually believe that all things are possible

through Him and live that out loud through faith, incredible things can happen for His glory.

According to **1 Chronicles 16:11**, when are we to seek the strength and face of the Lord?

Although sometimes unspoken, prayer is a constant conversation with the Lord. Keeping that line of communication open with God makes us aware of His presence in our everyday routine, meetings, conversations, and actions. What does Jesus promise to us in **Luke 11:9-10**?

Regardless of whether or not we believe that we have everything figured out, we still need our heavenly Father's direction. He invites us to pray boldly with the expectation that He will hear and answer us. Martin Luther once said, "Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian's weapon, which no man knows or finds but only he who has the spirit of grace and of prayer."

Prayer Can Move Mountains

What does **Philippians 4:6** tell us about prayer?

Pray about *everything*? Absolutely. Without being anxious? You bet. What happened when Moses went up on Mount Sinai to receive the Tablets of the Law? In his absence, the Israelites committed a grievous sin by making a golden calf. God determined to destroy them, but Moses did not get anxious. He began to pray. What were his words **Exodus 32:11-13**?

Chances are Moses did not approach God for this prayer calmly and quietly in a serene pose with neatly folded hands in his lap. This was a fervent, desperate prayer with passion, emotion, and conviction. What was the result of Moses' prayer in **Exodus 32:14**?

God listened and was moved to compassion. Sometimes our situations seem so out of control that we can't even see straight to pray about what we truly need. Those situations drive us to our knees before the One who has the power to do something about it. We may not see how our situation can possibly change, but God's Word assures us that He promises to be with us regardless of our situations. What is our instruction according to **1 Thessalonians 5:17**?

Simple and straightforward, but the results are anything but simple! What is one of the amazing results of faithful prayer according to **2 Corinthians 10:4**?

Prayer transcends into the supernatural realm. When we pray in the name of Jesus, our prayer does not merely contain words. Those words are backed by the power of the Most High. Satan's schemes and temptations are thwarted by the prayers of an honest heart and faithful confession (**Matthew 26:41**). We cannot physically see the powers at work against us, but God can. He sees the ambushes of the enemy just around the corner that we cannot see. He lines up our protection and direction when we line up for prayer.

A House of Prayer

God's Word does not call us to teach, meet, sing, or preach without ceasing. Although those tasks are necessary to do the ministries to which He has called us, He called us to pray without ceasing. What did Jesus declare in **Mark 11:17**?

When His house (the church) is connected to Him

in prayer, we are connected to the power source that drives the train of good works. When we pray for our missionaries, God orchestrates people and resources to change lives and draw people to Him. When we band together in prayer, God goes into action on our behalf. What does He promise in **Matthew 18:19**?

The Church is called to be a house of prayer. When His people gather together with the Great Commission in mind and seek His face, we behold a launching pad of disciples ready to proclaim His truth in Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (**Acts 1:8**).

Closing

Drawing close to God in prayer on a consistent basis is vital to our spiritual health and key to our walk with the One who created us, breathed life into us, and loves us *like no other*. Giving God custody of our details makes all the difference in the world. Putting prayer back up to the top of our impressive "to-do" lists is the first step. It's time we take a stand ... to kneel.