

The Poverty of Prayerlessness

Scripture Reading: Daniel 6: 1-11

Key Verse: 1 Samuel 12: 23. *"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:"*

Have you considered that prayerlessness is sin? Let us think about prayerlessness and its impact on our lives.

Why is it a sin to not pray?

Because the Bible expressly calls it a sin. Prayer signifies faith.

Because prayer is necessary.

Compare Luke 18: 1,
1 Thessalonians 5: 17,
Ephesians 6: 18, James 4: 17.

Because it denegrates God. Note: Whatever is not of faith is sin, Romans 14: 23.

It is pure unbelief to not pray. Look up Hebrews 11: 6. and 12: 1-2.

Because we are commanded and encouraged throughout the Bible to pray by promises and examples of those who have prayed and who have received answers to their prayers.

Because the Holy Spirit supports

our prayer. Look up Romans 8: 26.

Because we have the testimonies of others whom we know.

Because we have our own past personal experiences of prayer to encourage us.

Because of all that prayer can accomplish.

Because opens the door to all kinds of *other sins*. Look up Matthew 6: 13 and 26: 41. It was John Bunyan who said, *"Prayer will make a man cease from sin, as sin will entice a man to cease from prayer"*.

Because prayerlessness is the root cause of so much spiritual deficiency. Why is the Church so powerless? Why does preaching accomplish so little? Why is there so much work with so few results? Is it not that God's people are neglecting the great privilege and responsibility of prayer?

What are the reasons that we do not pray?

Because we think that we can handle the issue. 2 Cor 3.5.

Because we have not made prayer a good habit. Daniel 6.10.

Because we think we are too busy, under pressure. 2 Cor 1.7-9.

Because we have not been taught to pray. See Luke 11.1, 1 Samuel 12.23.

Because we are bored with the routine. Then change it. Do different things.

Because God seems sometimes slow to answer. Daniel 10.13, John 11.1-21 etc.

Sometimes God doesn't seem to answer, at least in the way we

want. 2 Cor 12. 8&9.

Against whom do we sin when we do not Pray?

We sin against God. Notice in 1 Samuel 12: 23". . . against the Lord." Of course, all sin is against the Lord.

We sin against others. Notice in 1 Samuel 12: 23". . . for you". We live in a world which is filled with men and women who are spiritually and morally broken and bleeding.

We sin against ourselves. There is a saying, "Prayer changes things", but prayer changes the pray-er.

Over the next few studies we will consider the benefits and blessings of a strong prayer life, how our Heavenly Father knows the needs of His children in advance and has made provision for them when He caused to world to be created. There are at least twelve reasons why our prayers can be hindered and we will consider them. We can be certain when we pray, if we pray according to the will of God. We will look at the prayer life of Jesus, God's sinless Son as our model. And more. This series of studies is designed to encourage you to *"ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."*

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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