

WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

There are reasons for making this discipline the centerpiece of your spiritual journey. Here are ten:

1. Prayer enhances our fellowship and intimacy with God. (Ps. 116:1-2, Jer. 33:2-3)
2. The Scriptures command us to pray. (Luke 18:1; Eph. 6:18; I Thess. 5: 16-18; I Tim. 2:1)
3. When we pray, we follow the example of Christ and other great people in Scripture like Moses and Elijah. (Mk. 1:35; Num. 11:2; I Kings 18:36-37)
4. Prayer appropriates God's power for our lives. (John 15:5; Acts 4:31; Eph. 3:16; Col. 4:2-4)
5. We receive special help from God when we pray. (Heb. 4:16)
6. Prayer makes a genuine difference. (Lk. 11: 9-10; James 5:16-18) As William Temple observed, "When I pray, coincidences happen; when I don't, they don't."
7. Prayer develops our understanding and knowledge of God. (Ps. 37: 3-6, 63: 1-8; Eph. 1: 16-19)
8. Our prayers and God's answers give us joy and peace in our hearts. (John 16:23-24; Phil. 4:6-7) Our problems may not disappear, but in prayer we gain a new perspective on our problems along with the peace and patience to stand firm.
9. Prayer helps us understand and accomplish God's purpose for our lives. (Col. 1: 9-11)
10. Prayer changes our attitudes and desires. (2 Corin.12: 7-9)