

## Why Pray?

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

*Colossians 4:2-6*

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

### **MAIN IDEA:**

Prayer is the avenue by which we grow closer to God, surrender to His will, activate our faith, and experience the peace of Christ.

*"But when we pray, genuinely pray, the real condition of our heart is revealed. This is as it should be. This is when God truly begins to work with us. The adventure is just beginning."*

— **Richard J. Foster**

### **WHY PRAY?**

#### **1. To be like Jesus.**

*During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.*

*Hebrews 5:7*

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

*Mark 1:35*

#### **2. God wants us to pray.**

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*

*Luke 18:1*

#### **3. To develop a posture of surrender.**

*He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."*

*Matthew 26:42*

*LORD, I know that people's lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps.*

*Jeremiah 10:23*

#### **4. To activate our faith.**

*For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*

*2 Chronicles 20:12*

*When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.*

*Psalms 138:3*

#### **5. To experience the peace of Christ.**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:6-7*

*Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.*

*Psalms 34:14*

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