

Summary

This sermon focuses on the essential role of prayer in the life of a disciple of Jesus. Drawing from the example of Jesus Himself, who prayed before major decisions, healings, and throughout His ministry, the pastor makes the case that prayer is as necessary to our spiritual lives as breathing is to our physical lives. Just as Jesus spent an entire night in prayer before choosing His twelve apostles, we are called to bring our decisions, our days, and our neighbors before God in consistent, intentional prayer. The pastor introduces four practical "P's" of prayer: Plan (set a consistent time), Prepare (ask God to make you willing to respond), Places (pray over the specific locations you will visit), and People (ask God how to reach those He has placed in your life). The sermon closes with a practical exercise of identifying eight people in your life to pray for regularly, with the goal of loving them like Jesus and moving them further along in their faith journey.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before you today as a group of people who want to know you more deeply and follow you more faithfully. As we open your Word and discuss what it means to be people of prayer, we ask that you would quiet our hearts and open our minds. Help us to set aside distractions and be fully present with one another and with you. Speak to us in the way that only you can, and let what we discover today move from our heads into our hearts and into our daily lives. In Jesus name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one habit or routine you do every single day without fail, and how did it become such a natural part of your life?

Key Verses

- Luke 6:12-13
- Ephesians 2:10
- Luke 11:9-10
- Philippians 4:6
- Colossians 4:2

- Ephesians 6:18
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- John 17:20-21

Questions

- The pastor compared prayer to breathing, saying it is as natural and necessary as the air we take in. Do you personally experience prayer that way? Why or why not?
- Jesus spent an entire night in prayer before choosing His twelve apostles. What does that tell us about how seriously he took the connection between prayer and decision-making? How does that challenge the way you approach big decisions in your own life?
- The sermon mentioned three common reasons people say they do not pray: not knowing how, being too busy, and doubting it works. Which of these resonates most with you, and what has helped you (or could help you) move past it?
- Ephesians 2:10 says God has prepared good works for us to do in advance. If that is true, what is the relationship between prayer and discovering what those works are? How does that change the way you think about asking God for direction?
- The pastor said we should not just pray for God to open doors, but that we would be willing to walk through the doors He opens. Is there an area of your life where you sense God has opened a door but you have been hesitant to step through? What is holding you back?
- The sermon introduced the idea of praying over specific places you will visit during the day, asking God to create opportunities there. How practical does that feel to you? What would it look like to try that this week?
- The pastor shared a story about someone who felt God nudging Him to talk to a stranger at the gym, and that simple conversation led to a meaningful friendship. Have you ever experienced a moment like that? What happened, and what did you learn from it?
- The exercise at the end of the sermon asked everyone to write down eight people in their lives to pray for regularly. Who came to mind for you, and what is one specific way you could begin praying for or showing love to one of those people this week?

Life Application

This week, set aside five to ten minutes at the same time each day to pray. During that time, write down the names of eight people God has placed in your life, whether neighbors, coworkers, or friends, and commit to praying for them daily. As you go through your day, ask God to make you willing to walk

through whatever doors He opens in those relationships, even if it feels awkward or uncomfortable. At the end of the week, reflect on whether you noticed any moments where God seemed to be at work in those interactions.

Key Takeaways

- Prayer is as essential to our spiritual lives as breathing is to our physical lives. We cannot be Christlike disciples without it.
- Jesus modeled a deep commitment to prayer throughout His ministry, praying before major decisions, healings, and on behalf of those who would believe through the disciples' message. If Jesus needed to pray, so do we.
- God has prepared good works for each of us to do in advance (Ephesians 2:10), and prayer is how we discover and align ourselves with that purpose.
- The four P's of prayer provide a practical framework: Plan a consistent time, Prepare your heart to be willing, Pray over the Places you will go, and ask God about the People He wants you to reach.
- Evangelism is often less about a single dramatic moment and more about consistently loving people, moving them a little further along in their journey toward faith, one conversation and one act of kindness at a time.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank you for this time together and for the reminder that you are always available to us, that you hear us, and that you invite us to bring everything to you in prayer. Forgive us for the times we have skipped the appointment, rushed past the open door, or doubted that you were listening. We ask that you would build in each of us a genuine hunger to pray, not out of obligation, but out of a deep desire to know you and to join you in what you are already doing in the world around us. Take the names on our lists, Father, and let our prayers for them be the beginning of something beautiful. Give us courage to love our neighbors well, to speak when you prompt us, and to trust you with the outcome. May our lives be a reflection of your grace to everyone we encounter this week. In Jesus name, Amen.