



Fifteenth Avenue BAPTIST CHURCH

UNCERTAIN

THE CHURCH DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

Promise of Prayer

Qualification of Prayer

- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent** prayer of a **righteous man** availeth much.
James 5:16

Qualification of Prayer

- **Righteousness**
- **Prayer as Powerful as the God to whom we pray.**
- **Prayer** is not just wishful thinking.
- **Prayer is available to believers in every time and in every place.**
- **Prayer of the righteous is very powerful in its working.**

Power of a Praying Church

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2.1, 8

- **1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ...8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.**

**What are characteristics
of praying churches and
their members?**

Praying Church

- **Centrality of Prayer**
 - To the life of the Church
 - To the life of the Believer
- **Praying Churches Prioritize Prayer**
- Prayer a constant theme of the early church in the book of Acts.

Prioritize Prayer

- God works both through **humanity's prayer** and **humanity's hands**.
- God will not complete God's works apart from our prayers. Consider Ezekiel 22:30-31.

Prioritize Prayer

- **30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. 31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD. Ezekiel 22:30-31**

How to Prioritize Prayer

Prioritize Prayer

- **God is always looking for God's people to pray within his church.**
- **However, we often fail to pray.**

Prioritize Prayer

- God always looking for God's people to pray.
- However, instead of prioritizing prayer, we get distracted by the cares of this life.
- We prioritize family, money, education, entertainment, and even other ministries to the dismay of those around us.
- Not always realizing that prayer is **ALWAYS** the answer!

Prioritize Prayer

- In **worship**, prayer must be the church's priority,
 - It also must be a priority in our individual lives.
 - Sadly, prayer is not a priority in **most churches**.
 - Prayer is not a priority **most of the time** in churches.

Prioritize Prayer

- How can we prioritize both corporate and individual prayer?
- We prioritize prayer by praying about everything, at all times.
- Pray without ceasing. **1Th. 5:17**

Prioritize Prayer

- We must learn to pray,
 - When we are **worried**,
 - When we are **angry**,
 - When we are **hungry**,
 - When we are **sleepy**,
 - When we are **resting**,
 - When we are **working**.

Prioritize Prayer

- **We must pray at all times.**
 - **This is a discipline we must develop.**
 - **By learning to bring every thought and activity before God.**

Prioritize Prayer

- **We prioritize prayer by setting aside specific times to pray.**
- **We need specific times devoted to prayer so we can learn how to pray without ceasing.**

Power of Corporate Prayer

- We prioritize prayer by setting aside specific times to for **corporate prayer**.
- Believers should make time for corporate prayer, especially when the church gathers.
- There is a tremendous power in corporate prayer.

Power of Corporate Prayer

- **18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**

Power of Corporate Prayer

- **20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

Matt. 18:18-20

Power of Corporate Prayer

- 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. **Matt. 17:20-21**

Prioritize Prayer

- **God meets with us in a special way when we participate in corporate prayer.**
- **We should set aside time for prayer in our casual meetings with believers.**
- **When meeting with fellow brothers and sisters for coffee, lunch, or dinner, we should take time to share prayer requests and lift one another up.**

Prioritize Prayer

- **Prayer should be the priority in worship services and our individual lives.**
- **When it is not, God's will does not get done.**

Prioritize Prayer

- **Praying Churches Pray for Everyone**
 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made **for all men; 1Tim. 2:1**

Prioritize Prayer

- One of the things we discern about prayer from this verse is that **all people** need prayer.
- There is not one person we know that doesn't need constant grace from God and, therefore, our prayers.

Types of Prayers

Types of Prayers

- **What kinds of prayer does Paul mention?**
 - **Supplications** (requests) is from a root word meaning **to lack, to be deprived**, or to be without something.
- These prayers arise from need.
 - Means asking God for something.

Types of Prayers

- **Our prayers should not consist only of requests.**
 - **But when we do offer them,**
 - **We have confidence God cares for us and wants to give us God's best.**

Types of Prayers

- **Prayers**
 - **A general word for all communication with God.**
 - **Unlike supplications, only used of God in Bible.**
 - **Includes a unique element of worship and reverence.**

Types of Prayers

- We must constantly take time to praise God
 - Honor God and God's characteristics.
 - Lord's Prayer begins with **Hallowed be thy name.**

Types of Prayers

- **Intercessions**

- Root means to get involved with someone.
- Refers to requests made on behalf of others.
- A word of advocacy, empathy, sympathy, compassion, and involvement.
- We should constantly engage in others' problems and lift them up.

Types of Prayers

- **Thanks**
 - Refers to a gratitude for God's grace.
 - In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. **1Th. 5:18**
- **Each of these types of prayers must be offered for all people.**

Prioritize Prayer

- Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; **Eph. 6:18**
- We should constantly lift up local churches
 - The Church in other nations, and
 - The Church globally.

Prioritize Prayer

- Churches need our prayers because we are all part of Christ's body.
- They always affect us, as we affect them.
- The parts of the body are attached, and dependent upon one another.
- This should encourage us to continually pray for other churches to prosper.

Prioritize Prayer

- **Scope of Prayer**
 - **We can pray for all people generally.**
 - **We can pray for all people specifically.**
 - **We can begin by asking for their prayer requests so our prayers can be more informed.**