

The Path 39 -

Prayer 2: Choose to Pray

What if someone would ask you, “What is the greatest thing you could do for your church?” How would you answer? Perhaps if you were rich, you could give large sums of money. If you were eloquent, you could speak the words of God with great boldness and clarity. If you were talented musically, you could write and sing hymns. These would all be great things you could do for your church. However, the greatest thing you could do for your church is to pray. That’s right! The greatest need in your church is for prayer ministers, and your responsibility to pray is the most important responsibility of all!

Choose to pray! This is something only we can do. Our decision to pray and our prayers will bring glory to God and blessings upon us, and others. This decision when carried out will make us vitally important to those around us. We will be doing the most important job in the world; and our choice will make us one of the most important members of our community and of the church. Only we can make the choice to pray.

What happens to you when we have been alone for a few days, surrounded by meaningless noise, but have no one present to talk to? If we are like most people, we begin to develop a craving to speak with someone - anyone about anything. The most frequent complaint of those who travel and are forced to be alone, is that they experience a need to talk with someone. Such a person will often pick a conversation with almost anyone, just to satisfy that need. Many, who are unable to develop the skill of conversation, will often change jobs, rather than face this terrible ordeal of loneliness. Everyone desires to communicate with others.

Christians have a desire to communicate with God. As a Christian, you too will feel a great urge to talk with God. Even though our life is filled with friends and activities, all of this cannot fulfill the needs of our soul to speak with God. Without communication with God, we will become lonely and fearful. We already sense this truth in our own soul, without ever hearing a sermon on the subject. Christians crave communication with God.

There is no substitute for prayer. If we neglect to pray, though our lives may be enriched by meaningful labor and countless friends, we will soon feel like an undernourished child. As the

body demands food that strengthens and nourishes it, the soul demands true and rich fellowship with God. God gives us this desire for prayer. Nothing will feed our soul and give it life but prayer. Choosing to pray is the most important decision we will make as a Christian.

When we pray, we are conducting the business of God. Matthew 18:18-19 says:

“Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall _____ 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 anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven.”

We have spiritual authority in prayer. We are transacting spiritual business and have the authority to ask “whatsoever”, and authority to “bind” evil spirits upon earth. Christians who pray are not beggars but binders.

Evangelism begins with prayer, and our personal walk with God depends highly on prayer. The greatest secret of prayer is simply to do it. However, there are some guidelines to follow which we will describe in future lessons.

Discussion:

- 1. Have you noticed that you have an inner desire to talk with God? Can you describe this desire?**
- 2. Why does our choice to pray make us one of the most important members of our community and of our church?**
- 3. What things do Christians substitute for prayer?**
- 4. In the lesson it is stated: “Christians who pray are not beggars but binders.” What does that mean?**
- 5. How does our personal walk with God depend on prayer?**