

“You Just Gotta Pray!”

Matthew 6:5-9

Isn't prayer just a waste of time?

Prayer is commanded in Scripture

- Colossians 4:2 – “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it ...”
- I Thessalonians 5:17 – “Pray without ceasing.”
- Romans 12:12 – “... continuing steadfastly in prayer”

*My obedience to the command of prayer means
it is a priority, not an aside; I sacrifice for it,
give time to it; I am intentional about it ...
I am devoted to it!*

Prayer is an expectation of Jesus

- **Matthew 5:5-7 – “And when you pray ... But when you pray ... And when you pray ...”**
- **Prayer is expected because ...**
Hebrews 4:16
 - It is an invitation.
 - I am not alone.
 - I can have confidence.
 - I will receive innumerable gifts.
 - The invitation is endless.

Prayer facilitates spiritual growth

- God knows that I have needs that can only be met through spiritual means.
- God expects me to pray because there is a need for ...
 - Physical provision Matthew 6:8
 - More workers for the harvest Luke 10:2
 - Power to overcome evil Matthew 26:41
 - Humility Micah 6:8
 - Refreshment and encouragement Matt. 11:28
 - Discernment in decision making Luke 6:12-13

Questions to Ponder

- Do I pray every day? How much time do I spend in prayer each day?
- Is prayer an add-on to my day or is it one of the priorities of my day?
- Do I treat prayer as part of my daily check sheet or is it a privilege?
- Is prayer a drudgery or a desire?