

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN JESUS' LIFE

By Abri Brancken, 22 July 2018

INTRODUCTION

God has given us spiritual weapons to assist us in our walk with Him. One of these weapons is prayer.

I believe that the church of the last days will be a church that is saturated in prayer because of the magnitude of the challenges we are going to face. Prayer releases God's purposes among His people. Prayer changes the outcome of situations. As followers of Jesus we need to live prayer daily.

IS JESUS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

Who of you would say that Jesus is your role model? Your example to follow?

If Jesus is your role model, then what was important to Him must be important to you. Right?

PRAY LIKE JESUS PRAYED

Jesus lived a lifestyle of prayer. Jesus taught prayer and demonstrated. Prayer was crucially important to

Jesus. How much more important should prayer be to us. Jesus prayed constantly, all the time. The Bible

tells us constantly that Jesus was a man of prayer. Jesus did not only pray, He lived prayer. Jesus ran

towards prayer. It is sad that church life these days are filled with so many events and programs and

very little with prayer. Jesus ran towards prayer while it seems that Christians often try to run away from

prayer.

Luke 5:16

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Matthew 14:23, NIV

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he

was there alone,

Luke 6:12-16, NIV

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Matthew 26:36-46, NIV

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them,

"Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Luke 18:1, NIV

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

TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11:1-13, NIV

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

When you read through the Gospels you find that the disciples did not come to Jesus and asked Him to teach them how to do miracles, how to preach effectively, how to multiply food or walk on water. What they did ask Him was to teach them to pray.

Prayer demonstrates our dependence on God and it brings the unseen into the seen. It links and draws the eternal into the temporal. When we don't spend sufficient time in prayer we will doubt God and His Word. Without prayer there is no breakthroughs, miracles, no growth.

There's nothing more transfiguring than prayer. People often ask, "Why do you insist on prayer so much?" The answer is very simple - because Jesus did.

THE DISCIPLES HAD TO LEARN PRAYER

The disciples lived in God's presence, Jesus, all the time. Everything they needed Jesus provided. When they needed food He increased it to feed the people. Whatever they needed anything they came to Jesus. When they needed protection, guidance, wisdom, understanding on Scripture, encouragement, etc., Jesus provided it. Jesus prayed all the time and they drew from his prayer life.

The one time that Jesus asked them to pray, they fell asleep. They were dependent on One that they could see, but they had to develop and grow in depending on the One they cannot see. They had to connect with God through prayer in order to see the miracles that Jesus did in their lives on a daily basis.

CONCLUSION

Jesus promises that our prayers will be answered if we remain in Him. Read John 14:13-14, John 15:7, John 16:24.

If someone came to you and said that they know of a way to change the outcome to situations, to heal people, transform and deliver people, etc. would you not be interested to know what it is? The Bible tells us what it is, prayer!

The Evangelist Billy Graham said:

“Jesus prayed briefly when He was in a crowd; He prayed a little longer when He was with His disciples; and He prayed all night when He was alone. Today, many in the ministry tend to reverse that process.”

Questions for Life Groups:

1. What are the things hindering your prayer life?
2. What do you think Christians do not prioritize prayer more?

Prayer request & topics:

1. Pray that we will receive a fresh understanding about the importance of prayer.
2. Pray for one another in the Life Group.