

January Development Guide

SUBJECT: HAVING A DAILY PRAYER LIFE



As Pastor John taught in his December series, *The Paradox of Christianity*, prayer is one of the engaging disciplines of being a Christian.

I'm so thankful that Victory is a "Pray First Church." Prayer is not our last resort, but our first response.

In order to have a consistent daily prayer life it's important to understand the "why" and "how" we go to the Father in prayer.

1. The first "why" we pray is to invite God into our daily lives. Isn't it incredible? The Maker of Heaven and Earth desires to be a part of our everyday lives.
2. The next reason it's important to have a daily prayer life is to develop your personal relationship with God. God truly desires to be in relationship with us. His Word tells us that if we draw close to Him, He will draw close to us.
3. The next "why" to having a daily prayer life is that Jesus himself went away to spend time with the Father in prayer.

This is referenced multiple places in Scripture, specifically in Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12, and Luke 22:39-43. Jesus consistently went into prayer to communicate with the Father and be refreshed by His presence.

4. The final "why" it's so important for us to have a daily prayer life is that prayer is how we exercise spiritual authority in the earth.

Matthew 18:18, Jesus spoke these words: *"For sure, I tell you, whatever you do not allow on earth will not have been allowed in heaven. Whatever you allow on earth will have been allowed in heaven."*

God will never do for us what He's equipped us to do for ourselves, and prayer is how we exercise the authority God has given us in the earth.

Now let's look at "how" we are to pray.

1. First, do not make having a daily prayer life overly complicated. Remember, prayer is relational—it's speaking to our Heavenly Father, so don't muddy things up by being too structured.
2. Next, when we pray, we pray to the Father in Jesus' name. In John 16:23, Jesus said: *"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."*
3. As you pray, take time to give God praise. Psalm 100:4 tells us: *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise."*

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4. Then, as you're praying, ask with boldness. Our hearts must be fully persuaded that He hears our prayers and that all His promises are "Yes" and "Amen"!

Below are scriptures to meditate on before going into times of prayer to get your heart fully persuaded of God's love for you and the authority you have in Jesus' name.

- Thank Him for all He's done for us – *Psalms 103:1-6 (TPT)*
- God will withhold nothing from us – *Romans 8:28-32 (TPT)*
- The passionate, heartfelt prayer of a righteous man releases tremendous power – *James 5:13-17 (TPT), James 5:16b (NKJV), 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)*
- What we declare will be established for us – *Job 22:28 (NKJV)*
- All the Promises of God are Yes and Amen – *2 Corinthians 1:19-20 (TPT)*

5. Finally, pray in the Spirit. In Jude 1:20 we are told to build ourselves up in our most holy faith by praying in the Spirit.

If you've not yet received the wonderful gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, please meet with a prayer partner or one of our Next Steps team members after service. They'd be happy to walk you through this amazing Bible experience.

My final encouragement to you would be to keep a prayer journal. Write down your prayers, and then take time to go back to see God's faithfulness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were your biggest takeaways from this teaching?
2. Do you currently have a consistent daily prayer life? Why or why not?
3. How would journaling your prayers be effective in building your faith?
4. How does putting God's Word in your heart increase the power of your prayers?