

Prayer Satisfies to Save Our Souls

11/13/16

All Spiritual Disciplines are for the purpose of causing us to know God more deeply, enjoy His everlasting love and in return to learn to love Him

Romans 12:9-13

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. **10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, [serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, **be constant in prayer.** **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Matthew 14: 23

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

Mark 1:35

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he **prayed.**

The need for prayer

1-1 Luke 5:15-16 **15** But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. **16** But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

2 "Devote yourselves to prayer" **Col. 4:2**

3 ..."We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word" **Acts 6:4**

4 Prayer changes me inwardly, making me an instrument of God's grace

5 "To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue that God uses to transform us...In prayer we learn to think God's thoughts after Him: to desire the things He desires, to love the things He loves, to do the things He wills."

Richard Foster-Celebration of Disciplines

Prayer defined as a spiritual discipline

1 It is God's chosen access into His presence, where we encounter Him relationally and are comforted, directed, and strengthened.

2 It is the means by which we catch up with God and what He is doing in our life, in our community, and in our world. It is where we catch a glimpse of God's bigger picture and learn to lovingly submit to our role in His plan.**3** It involves both meditation and contemplation through reflection on Scripture and on God Himself.

Why should we do this discipline?

1 Jesus instructed us that we should pray, and Scripture teaches that we should pray without ceasing.

2 It is a strategic and intentional priority to relate with God...otherwise prayer may become minimal and marginalized.

3 It is God's ordained and initiated method to sync up our fallen nature. Helping us to get past our spiritual poverty in our physical state into the riches of the spiritual state.

Requirements and how to incorporate prayer as a discipline

1 To be a discipline, it needs to be intentional and strategic. It needs to be done regularly and often.

2 It must be consistent in order to develop as a means to encounter God, hear from Him and be realigned by Him.

3 There are many different modes of prayer both personal and corporate.

a. Discursive prayer, which is an ongoing spoken conversation that occurs while "doing" life.

b. Centering Prayer which is a means of stilling the mind so I more closely focus on God

c. Prayers may include complaint, praise, worship, submission, relinquishment, guidance, intercession, confession, repentance and cries for help.

Will you commit to adding this most important app to your life?

Always Persevering Prayer