



What We Need to Succeed

March 2004

Dear Partner,

I pray that you are pressing towards what God, our Heavenly Father, has for you! This month I wanted to share God's heart on something that is very dear to Him. In **Luke 10:42** Jesus said But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part... What one thing was Jesus talking about? What did Mary "choose" to do? Mary chose to hear what Jesus (the Word) had to say, by sitting at His feet-- in His presence, focused only on Him and not distractions. When we pray, we are in God's presence. We are giving Him something that He gave us—time. We are communicating with God and He is communicating with us. By staying in constant communication with God, we are destined to succeed. A famous author, E.M. Bounds said, "*Failure to pray is failure in life.*" God created us to succeed, not to fail.

Whenever we come to the Father to communicate a desire such as asking Him to bless our family, or to keep us safe, we should come to Him with His Word. **Isaiah 43:26** says Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified. When we bring God's Word back to Him during our prayer by repeating what He said to us (in His Word), He is saying it with us. We are justified because He's given us the right and authority to do so. **Isaiah 55:11** says So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. This scripture shows us as we bring His Word back to Him, it will be accomplished (it will become, it will bring forth)!

God already has good plans for our lives according to **Jeremiah 29:11**. Let's make a commitment to communicate with Him **daily** (through prayer), so that we can find out what those plans are. Our prayers to God invite and allow Him to get involved in our affairs. Without us, there is no purpose for prayer. Always remember that **God is obligated to answer prayer that is prayed in faith, according to His Word!**

Some of you may think "But I pray." The question is "How do you pray?" and "How often?" It's not always what you do, it's how you do it (your method) and how consistent you are (your diligence). Consider this--- you go to the gym once a week and when you go, you are not exercising properly---you're not using the proper method or form. You probably won't see many results—if any. Consider this—you go to the gym daily and you are using the correct methods when you exercise and you are eating properly (which would be equal to the Word), you are guaranteed to see results. **How much more are we guaranteed through the Word of God to see our desired results, when we pray diligently and properly?**

Will God Answer Your Prayer?

- Then shall you call upon me, and ye shall go and pray to me, and I will hearken unto you... (Jer. 29:12-13)
- Call unto me and I will answer thee... (Jeremiah 33:3)
- Then thou shall call and the Lord shall answer... (Isaiah 58:9)
- ...His ears are open unto our prayers... (I Peter 3:12)
- Why would God tell us to pray, if He wasn't going to answer us? Just so we can waste out time? I think not!

Why Should We Pray?

- Because we love Him and want to spend time with Him.
- God delights in our prayers. (Proverbs 15:8)
- Jesus said "When you pray..." not if you pray", so He expects us to. (Matthew 6:6-7)
- Jesus said the one thing that is needful is to sit in His presence and hear what He has to say. (Luke 10:38)
- To have peace in your life and to remove all worries and cares. (Philippians 4:6)
- Jesus is our example. John 17--this entire chapter is Jesus praying for Himself, the disciples and the church.
- To help us make important decisions. Jesus prayed all night before He chose His disciples. (Luke 6:12-13)
- He'll show us things to come. (Isaiah 45:11, Jeremiah 33:3)
- To keep us from yielding to temptation (Matt. 26:41, Mark 14:38, Luke 22:46)
- Don't expect things to change unless you have spoken change in your prayer time. This includes changes in yourself, your home, your job, your church, etc.! Always begin with yourself. True and lasting change comes by staying in God's presence and by renewing your mind with the Word of God.

When Should We Pray?

- In the morning to start our day right (Ps. 5:2, Ps. 57:8, **Prov. 8:17**, Mark 1:35-39, Luke 21:38, John 8:2)
- All the time--- Throughout your day (Luke 18:1; 21:36, Eph. 6:18, I Thes. 5:17, Col. 4:2)

How Should We Pray?

- Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. (Psalm 100:4)
- Ask the Father in Jesus' Name. (John 16:23, Eph. 5:20, Matt. 6:6)
- Come boldly to His throne with your requests. (Hebrews 4:16; 10:19)
- Effectually, Fervently and Powerfully (James 5:16)
- Figure out what you desire from God and find scripture(s) to support what you desire. (Psalm 37:4)
- Ask Him (according to the scriptures that you found); believe that you receive your answers when you pray (not after). (Mark 11:23-24)
- Wait in Faith for the answer to manifest by meditating on the Word of God and thanking Him for what you requested.

Whatever we do in our lives without prayer, we are leaving God out of it...whether big or little. E.M. Bounds said, "He who does not pray robs himself of God's help." When we rob ourselves of God's help, we get ourselves into messes thus being a hindrance and slowing down our own progress. Let's allow God to help us be the successful Christian that He's called and created us to be. Let's "abide in the shadow of the Almighty." You can't be in His shadow if you're not spending time with Him. Let's live in God's presence because we love Him. Make prayer a lifestyle-- a daily appointment that we are determined not to "reschedule". This indeed is what we need to succeed!

A Pray-er for Him,

Deirdre S. Council
Co-Pastor

If you desire information on how to become a Partner or Supporter of this ministry, please write or call using the information on the front page. Luke 6:38 says Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. As always, thank you for your continual prayers, support and encouragement!