

Sermon on Prayer

Topic: The Power and Purpose of Prayer

Text: Luke 18:1 – 'Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.'

1. What is Prayer?

- Prayer is communion with God — not a monologue but a dialogue.
- It is our spiritual oxygen (without it, a believer suffocates).
- It is also an invitation for God's will to be done on earth (Matthew 6:10).

2. Why We Must Pray

- Prayer is a command (Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Prayer gives access to God's presence (Psalm 100:4; Hebrews 4:16).
- Prayer brings divine provision (Matthew 7:7-8; James 4:2).
- Prayer produces transformation (Exodus 34:29).
- Prayer is a weapon of warfare (2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:18).

3. Examples of Prayer in the Bible

- Jesus prayed at every major step (Luke 6:12, Luke 22:44).
- Hannah prayed until barrenness ended (1 Samuel 1:10-20).
- Daniel prayed and God shut the lions' mouths (Daniel 6:10-22).
- The Church prayed for Peter and an angel released him from prison (Acts 12:5-11).

4. How to Pray Effectively

- Pray with faith (Mark 11:24).
- Pray with persistence (Luke 18:1–8).
- Pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14).
- Pray in the Spirit (Romans 8:26; Jude 1:20).
- Pray with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6).

5. Hindrances to Prayer

- Unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:18).
- Doubt/unbelief (James 1:6-7).
- Wrong motives (James 4:3).
- Unforgiveness (Mark 11:25).

6. The Results of Prayer

- Peace (Philippians 4:6-7).
- Power (James 5:16).
- Provision (Matthew 7:7).
- Protection (Psalm 91:15).

- Revival (2 Chronicles 7:14).

7. Conclusion / Call to Action

- Prayer is not optional; it is essential.
- If you pray, you won't faint; if you don't pray, you will faint.
- God is calling us back to the altar of prayer.
- Show me a prayerless Christian, and I'll show you a powerless Christian. But show me a prayerful Christian, and I'll show you a victorious Christian!
- Philippians 4:6-7 – Be anxious for nothing, but pray about everything.