

# WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO

## Why Do we Pray?

**Luke 18:1 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *And he (Jesus) told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*

**1 Timothy 2:1-8 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. <sup>8</sup> I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;*

**Ephesians 6:18-19 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup> praying always in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for

me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 (ESV)** <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

**Colossians 4:2-6 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup> Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup> At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— <sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

1. Prayer in the book of acts was focused and effective

Prayer is mentioned 50 times in Acts

Prayer 1: Prayer for guidance, **Acts 1:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Prayer 2: Prayer for wisdom in choosing leaders and teachers, **Acts 1:24-25 (ESV)** <sup>24</sup> *And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”*

Prayer 3: Prayer for boldness to teach in Jesus’ Name, **Acts 4:24-31 (ESV)** <sup>24</sup> *And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, ““Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’— <sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy*

*Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

Prayer 4: Prayer for Those Who Are Selected to Serve the Church, **Acts 6:6 (ESV)**<sup>6</sup> *These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.*

Prayer 5: Prayer for Those Who Treat Us Wrongly and Persecute Us, **Acts 7:60 (ESV)**<sup>60</sup> *And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Prayer 6: Prayer for Healing and Miracles that Only God Can Do, **Acts 9:40 (ESV)**<sup>40</sup> *But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.*

Prayer 7: Prayer that brought salvation to the Gentiles, Acts 10 & 11 **Cornelius and Peter**

Prayer 8: Prayer of Intercession for Believers in Chains, **Acts 12:5 (ESV)**<sup>5</sup> *So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.*

Prayer 9: Prayer for the Missionaries Our Churches Send Out, **Acts 13:3 (ESV)**<sup>3</sup> *Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

Prayer 10: Prayer in jail that brings salvation to jailor's family, **Acts 16:25 (ESV)**<sup>25</sup> *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to*

them,

Prayer 11: Prayer for a sick man that resulted in the spread of the Gospel **Acts 28:8-9 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup> *It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him. <sup>9</sup> And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.*

## 2. Every believer should grow in their prayer life

1. Growing in God begins with a **desire**.
2. The desire must be furnished with a **strategy**.
3. The strategy must be accompanied by **dedication**.
4. Spiritual growth must be founded in a **dependence** on God.
5. Continued growth happens best in **collaboration**.

*“The strongest one in Christ’s Kingdom is he who is the best knocker. The secret of success in Christ’s kingdom is the ability to pray. The one who can wield the power of prayer is the strong one, the holy one in Christ’s Kingdom. The most important lesson we can learn is how to pray.”* E.M. Bounds