

# Fellowship with the Father Why Pray?

September 11, 2005

Welcome to the ekklesia fellowship!

## Why Pray?

**Luke 18:1-8**

Jesus teaches us a series of three *contrasts* in order to help us better understand the importance of prayer.

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 1: A Contrast of *Principles*

"It is the privilege of every Christian to live so fully in God that he never gets out of the experienced Presence for one moment..."

—Tozer, *The Next Chapter after the Last*

- but something done continually and deliberately.
- Jesus boldly confronts us with a vivid contrast and inescapable choice: *pray or lose heart.*

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 1: A Contrast of *Principles*

"When we cry out to God in prayer, we may not understand or articulate our real need, our real hurt—but the Lord knows us through and through. We can depend on Him to hear us, to act on our behalf, to work in our best interests. Even if we do not receive from Him what we want or what we cry out for, we know that we will receive from Him what we need." —Stedman, *Talking With My Father*

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 2: A Contrast of *Persons*

"When we cry out to God...we reach out to a God who possess a father's heart and a father's compassion... We do not need to pester God into acting on our behalf. He acts on our behalf because He loves us... God, our loving Father, already knows what we truly need even before we pray. And He will give us what we *need*, even if He does not always give us what we demand."

—Stedman, *Talking With My Father*

*perpetual prayer*

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 3: A Contrast of *Practice*

v.8: "However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

- *when, not if.*
- In a passage teaching us prayer, why does Jesus change the subject to faith?
- What is faith?
  - fixing the eyes of our heart on the finished work of Christ—standing firmly on Him as *logos* Truth

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 3: A Contrast of *Practice*

“A life lived in Christ becomes in the true sense a life of unceasing prayer. The whole life becomes a prayer: words are verbal prayers, thoughts become mental prayers, deeds become prayers in action and even sleep may be but unconscious prayer.”

—Tozer, *The Next Chapter after the Last*  
—Stedman, *Talking With My Father*

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 3: A Contrast of *Practice*

- If prayer then is the expression of our faith, could we gauge the depth of our faith by examining our prayer life?
- How can we claim to have *faith in God* while failing to communicate with Him about everything we experience?
- One sign of loosing communication is that we become obsessed with talking *about someone*, instead of talking *with the one*.

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 3: A Contrast of *Practice*

- When we talk only *about* God instead of talking *with* God, we demonstrate a deteriorated faith.
- Too often, we become deeply engrossed in discussions about God, spending hours in lengthy, theological discussions or debates
- “You that manifest a concern about religion, why don’t you pray?” —*Martin Luther*

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 3: A Contrast of *Practice*

- The purpose of all faith is to bring us into direct, personal and intimate communication—prayer—with the living and personal God, Who is calling out to us through the open arms of His Son.

## Why Pray?

### Contrast 3: A Contrast of *Practice*

- How would you assess the state of your faith, as demonstrated by your prayer life?
- What are some practical ways, today and this week, you could deepen your communication with Him?
- Why is it so hard for us to talk to a God Who unconditionally loves us and provided everything for us so that we can talk with Him?