

DEVOTED TO PRAYER

Colossians 4:2

“**Devote yourselves** to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Acts 2:42

“They **devoted themselves** to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to **prayer.**”

The Greek word for devoted is **Proskartereō**. This word means to adhere to one, be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one, to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing, to continue all the time in a place, to persevere and not to faint, to show one’s self courageous for, to be in constant readiness for one, wait on constantly.

God’s word tells us to continue steadfastly and never faint in prayer. It says that we must individually devote ourselves to prayer. No one can make us pray only we can speak in our hearts and minds, Abba.

To be a saint devoted to prayer one must wrestle, struggle, and commit themselves to it

Here are some powerful reasons why prayer is the worth being devoted to:

1. In Ephesians 6:10-20 faith, the word of God, truth etc. are all compared to a physical weapons. Prayer cannot be compared to as any weapon on earth. It is the incense that causes earthquakes and thunder (Revelation 8:3-5). It is more powerful than any satanic force and it is the thing that Jesus did before he went to the cross.

10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11**Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13**Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14**Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15**and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16**In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17**Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Where do you feel weak? Don't know what to do?

2. What can a man or woman do on earth that is more effective than prayer? James 5:16
3. What changes the inward person more than prayer? **2 Corinthians 4:16** Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. **What's the thing you feel you can't change?**
4. Jesus said ask and it will be given to us. As James 4:2b – “you do not have because you do not ask God.” You are the loser if you are not praying. **What do you want?**
5. Because there is a Devil that will defeat you if you do not pray. Col 2:**8** See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. **What is attacking you?**
6. Jesus – the son of God on earth often withdrew and spent much time with his father in prayer. Luke 5:16 **Just wanna get away?**
7. Prayer is where we find true peace and contentment when anxiety strikes. Philippians 4:4-7 **4** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Worried? What worries you?**
8. Prayer is where you receive an extra measure of the Spirit. Acts 4:31, After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. **Luke 11:13** *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!* **What could you do if you were full of the Holy Spirit or more full?**

9. Prayer is where we can have true intimacy with our Father. Romans 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." **How would you feel being close to God?**

10. Prayer brings power into our work on earth. Because we have Christ and his name that intercedes on behalf of our cries and petitions. John 14:12-14. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. Focus on vs. 12 and ask yourself why Jesus says "because I am going to the father." **You can do even greater things.**

As Hebrews 7:25 says – he lives to intercede for us..... Where else than in prayer. Therefore he is able to save completely^[a] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

These reasons and many more are the reason why we must be devoted to prayer. My conviction is that we do not slack in prayer because we lack discipline or we do not have time or cannot get up in the morning. ***The main reason why men and women are slack in prayer is that they are prideful and do not believe that it is that important.*** Hopefully this study will help show the importance of devotion to prayer.

Helpful suggestions to being a man or woman devoted to prayer:

1. Pick a realistic time in the day where you no matter what get an hour/half an hour of prayer time in. Have the attitude that nothing can stop you from praying during this time. It could be between classes or before the day begins but if you have the conviction that nothing is more important than nothing will ever creep into that time. If for some reasons it does, sacrifice something else in the day and substitute that time for the day.
2. Pray with disciples throughout the week (pick 1,2,3 or more days out of the week).
3. Study out prayer through devotional books and the Bible to constantly keep building your conviction on the importance and priority of prayer.
4. Ask one another about it often. Simply ask someone in your group: "How is your prayer life going?"
5. Make your own plan that works for you and ask someone to hold you accountable.

I would like to end with this quote from RA TORREY:

The great cry of our day is work, work, work, new organizations, new methods, new machinery; the great need of our day is prayer. It was a master stroke of the devil when he got the church so generally to lay aside this mighty weapon of prayer.