

WHY PRAY? PART I JANUARY 1-2, 2022

INTRODUCTION

- Each year we begin with 21 days of prayer and times of fasting. But many of us struggle with prayer.
- Endurance and perseverance are not words that would describe our culture, but much of prayer is about that.
- Galatians 6:9, “Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.”

I. WHY PRAY?

- Does prayer make any difference?
- Do you think God will respond to your prayers?
- Can your prayers actually change anything?
- Can prayer impact destiny?
- John Wesley said, “God does nothing on the earth save in answer to believing prayer.”
- Do you believe God has this all mapped out and your prayers make no difference?

II. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- When Jesus was questioned he went back to the beginning. Genesis 1:26-28
- Psalm 8:3-7, “...⁶ You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet...”
- Mankind represents God on earth. Genesis 1
- Hebrew - shamar which means to guard or protect.
- Luke 4:6-7, The devil said to Him, “I will give you all this domain...for it has been handed over to me...”
- God made a decision at creation to include humans in His journey. He delegated authority on earth to people.

- It took God sending His Son to regain what Adam gave away at the fall.

II. STANDING IN THE GAP

- Ezekiel 22:30, “I searched for a man among them who would...stand in the gap before me...but I found no one.”
- There is a gap that only people can fill.
- God delegated to us and we handed it over to hell, but He redeemed it through Jesus.
- He is still committed to people partnering with Him...
- We call this intercession = “to go between” or “to mediate.”
- John 1:18 NLT, “...He has revealed God to us.”
- Revealed = exegeomai = to show the way.
- Jesus’ intercession was not a prayer but a work...mediation.
- I Timothy 2:5, “There is one God and one mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.”

IV. SENT ONES

- God works through humans today as He always has.
- Through our prayers and our service
- John 20:21, Jesus said, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”
- 40x Jesus said in book of John He was sent by the Father. He did the Father’s work.
- Jesus was sent as an intercessor/ mediator and we are as His church sent as representatives of Him.

CLOSE

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you today?
- Are you functioning as an intercessor?
- Are you representing Jesus or yourself?
- Are you being used to break hell’s hold on people?
- Are you being used to bring people to Jesus?