

## Biblical Principles for Living

# ***Pray Always and Don't Give Up***

Luke 18:1-8

*Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart. Luke 18:1 Why should we pray? What is the benefit? Does it make a difference?*

Some people suggest simply that prayer and meditation only benefit our own state of mind. Others that we should repeat certain memorized prayers as a way to bring calm. Still others that prayer is a way to express our own thoughts to ourselves, like journaling, to clarify our own thinking on a subject (like Rogerian counseling — we really know the answers within ourselves, we just have to ask the right questions of ourselves. What does the Bible say is the purpose of prayer and what is it exactly?

- 1. Prayer is a two way communication with God in which both parties have a conversation. The Scriptures are filled with examples of God speaking to individuals. The very Scriptures themselves are living testimony to God's verbal communication with human authors (2 Timothy 3:16).**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

- 2. Prayer is the means of getting wisdom from God and answers to life's predicaments. (James 1:5-6)**

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

- 3. Prayer is the means of obtaining provision from God to meet life's needs. (Matthew 6:11)**

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.

- 4. Prayer is the means of being fruitful in the Christian life. (John 14:12, 15:7, 16:23)**

<sup>12</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full. <sup>25</sup> These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

- 5. Prayer changes things. (Mark 11:22-24)**

<sup>22</sup> And Jesus \*answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.