

PRAYER – YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT!

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“Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian's weapon, which no man knows or finds but only he who has the spirit of grace and of prayer.” (Martin Luther)

How important and relevant is prayer? If we are honest with ourselves there may be some small part of us that believes this “little thing” we do in this fast-paced, flashy world seems invisible and inconsequential. Oh, beloved child of the living God, I beg to differ! For those who pray and keep their eyes on Him, the miracle movements of God's hands are larger than life. A vibrant and active prayer life teaches us without a doubt that God resides in the details. Scripture is clear that everything can be affected by prayer. *“Everything is possible for him who believes.”* (Mark 9:23) Notice the active, present-tense verb “believe” in that passage! We must continually believe that all things are possible through Him and then live that out loud in our faith.

God's plan for His kingdom and eternity will happen exactly as He has planned it. However, there are variables in how that will be accomplished – that's where prayer and faith play an active part. In Philippians 4:6, we are told: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”* Giving thanks to God as we pray reiterates our humble position as the receiver of His good gifts. However, sometimes our situations seem so out of control that we can't even see straight to pray about what we truly need. But if our requests are biblical and line up with God's overall plan, anything is possible. Regardless of our situations, scripture instructs us to *“pray continually.”* (1 Thes. 5:17) God longs for that personal, quiet time with us—His precious creations. In that cherished time of prayer, God directs us, guides us, imparts wisdom and gives us peace.

Consequently, drawing close to God in prayer on a consistent basis is vital to our spiritual health and Christian walk. Only through consistent, honest prayer are we able to live the abundant life of freedom with the One who created us, breathed life into us, and loves us *like no other*. Giving God custody of our details makes all the difference in the world.

For further study: Read Matthew 7:7, Matthew 26:41, Luke 18:1, Luke 21:36, John 16:24, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Chronicles 16:11, James 5:13, Luke 11:9-10, Deuteronomy 4:29, Psalm 105:5, and Isaiah 55:6.