

*T I T L E: Reasons to Pray (A Pastor's Perspective)*

*T E X T: Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians. 5:17*

*I. Christians are commanded to pray.*

*The cornerstone reason to pray is simply this... we are commanded to do so.*

*II. Christians are expected to pray. (Christ expects it of Christians)*

**Matthew 6:5–7** ---- **5** *“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. **6** “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. **7** “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.*

*III. Christians need to pray....*

*A. ...because mankind including Christians are infirm.*

*B. ...because Christians do not always know what to pray.*

**Romans 8:26–28** ---- **26** *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; **27** and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

IV. *Prayer is necessary.*

*...because truth is about revelation more so than discovery by man.*

**Deuteronomy 29:29** ---- *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.*

V. *Failing to pray is to presume upon one’s personal adequacies as being sufficient, such as experience, education, intellect, talent, etc.*

*Success from a biblical perspective is never devoid of God’s hand and/or blessings.*

**Deuteronomy 8:18** ---- *“But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

**Proverbs 10:22** ---- *It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.*

***Talent, education, experience, intellect, etc. is never enough.***

VI. *Prayer is an invitation to dialog with the Lord.*

**Jeremiah 33:3** ---- *‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’*

VII. *Prayer honors and/or recognizes God’s sovereignty in all things which in and of itself teaches us to never lose hope.*

**Proverbs 16:1** ---- *The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.*

**Proverbs 16:9** ---- *The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.*

*God is in control....*

*Conclusion: There is no way that Christians, in a private capacity, can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the kingdom of Christ as by prayer. Jonathan Edwards*

*Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure. D.L. Moody*