

Connecting with God *When God's People Pray*

Psalms 145:18

Pastor Brian

***Psalms 145** ¹⁸ The LORD is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth. (NLT)*

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T PRAY?

1. It promotes SELF-RELIANCE.

***Job 21** ¹⁵ Who is the Almighty, and why should we obey him? What good will it do us to pray? (NLT)*

***Jeremiah 17** ⁵ This is what the LORD says: "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the LORD." (NLT)*

2. It prevents SUPERNATURAL RESULTS.

***Matthew 13** ⁵⁵ Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. ⁵⁶ All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?" ⁵⁷ And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family." ⁵⁸ And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief. (NLT)*

***Mark 9** ²² The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." ²³ "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." (NLT)*

3. It emboldens SATAN'S RULE.

***Luke 22** ³¹ Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. ³² But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers. (NLT)*

WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?

1. It DEMONSTRATES His power.

***Matthew 18** ²⁰ For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them. (NLT)*

***1 John 5** ¹⁴ And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. ¹⁵ And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for. (NLT)*

2. It ACTIVATES His purposes.

***Ephesians 3** ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us... (NIV)*

***James 5** ¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. (NLT)*

3. It **REJUVENATES** His people.

***Psalms 138** ³ As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength. (NLT)*

***Ephesians 3** ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. (NLT)*

***1 Peter 5** ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. (NLT)*

Action Step:

COMMIT TO PRAY EVERY DAY THIS NEXT WEEK!