

Sunday, January 14, 2018
Did You Know?

Praying Better

A goal that all Christians should have is to pray better. If we examine our prayer lives there is always room for improvement. We can pray longer and deeper. We can pray more consistently. We can pray more frequently to pray without ceasing. We can pray with more intensity and persistence. We can pray more broadly, expanding our prayers to include government, social vices, the nations, global missions, local missions, our workplace and school, and so on. We can always repent more, worship more, thank more and intercede more. We can pray for more spiritual growth in ourselves and others. There is always another person that we can pray to become a Christian. Here are some tips to help you pray better in 2018, taken from Ephesians 6:18-20:

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

- Remember that prayer is work. It's part of our arsenal in the spiritual battle. Expect it to be difficult. Expect to receive spiritual resistance and distractions to keep you from prayer. It's also a discipline, a habit that we need build. Like a muscle, the more we use it the stronger it gets. Though we can and should pray throughout the day, try to find a consistent time to pray every day. That will help you strengthen your habit.
- Remember that prayer is an indispensable component to the ministry of the Gospel. We need to pray for ourselves and others as we engage in any kind of Gospel ministry. Pray for the Gospel that is preached in our church's pulpit and in pulpits and in coffee shops all across our city.
- Remember that a large part of prayer is asking God for help, all kinds of help in all situations and occasions. Practical tip: make prayer lists on paper, or use the note app on your phone, or download the *PrayerMate* app (which is what I use). In my lists I pray for myself, my family, for the spiritual growth of our members, the sick in our church, all of our missionary partners, and for specific persons with whom I am sharing the Gospel. Using a list (or an app) really helps me organize my prayers throughout the week.
- Always try to integrate your Bible reading and prayer in this way. Pray back to God what you read in the Bible. Example: Read Psalm 8:1 "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Pray, "LORD, Yahweh, our Lord, my Lord, how true it is that your name is majestic in all the earth. You alone are the true God. You alone are worthy of my praise and the praise of all peoples. Lord, I echo in my heart this psalm. 'How majestic is your name in all the earth.'
- Finally, pray with others. Start praying with your family. Make prayer a greater part of your Life Groups. Form or join a prayer group. Attend the 7am Saturday church prayer meetings.

Soli Deo Gloria

Pastor Peter