

Lesson #3: Priority of Prayer

If prayer is so powerful, why isn't it more of a priority? Praying constantly seems counterproductive. When I was younger I used to worry that I was 'bothering' God by praying too much. The Devil is constantly trying to distract us from prayer. Prioritizing prayer requires us to set ourselves aside and focus on God first. To stop and pray instead of running ahead on our own. Too many people make prayer an add-on instead of first. God created everything. The Devil created nothing. We ruined everything. Why don't we make prayer a priority? We are completely dependent upon him. God is before time, after time, and controls all time. We can't even remember what we had for dinner last week or to take our shopping list with us when we go to the grocery store but God knew us in the womb.

Praying during difficult times can be especially hard. It sounds counterproductive but the stress and fatigue of dealing with battles or burdens that stretch on for years can wear you down. This is the time we need to be constantly in prayer as never before. Even if to just ask God for enough strength to get through another day.

Prayer needs to be first. Jesus prioritized prayer. His disciples asked him to show them how to pray. (Luke 11:1). In the New Testament church the apostles prioritized prayer. Paul instructs us to be constantly in prayer. When prayer is a priority the people and the church can only prosper.

Sample Prayer:

Father, forgive us for relying on our wisdom, strength, energy, and ideas rather than abiding in You and seeking You first. Help us lay aside anything that hinders us from pursuing Your will. Help us prioritize prayer and devote ourselves, our families and our church to it. Help us to walk by Your strength and bring You great glory. In Your son's name, Amen.