

# Prayer Matters

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1 Thessalonians 3:10a (3:9-10)

## Reasons That We Struggle To Pray:

### 1.) Our Experience

*"But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence." –C.S. Lewis*

### 2.) Our Theology

*"For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' (Isaiah 46:9-10)*

*"But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases" (Psalm 115:3)*

### 3.) Our Ability

### 4.) Our Worldview

### 5.) Our Lifestyle

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

## Consider Paul:

### 1.) Paul believed that prayer matters.

*"There is no tension or inconsistency between the reality that God is sovereign over all things, and the fact that prayer is effective. Just as God has ordained eating as a means by which hunger may be satisfied, so he has ordained prayer as a means by which events may come to pass." –Richard Pratt*

*"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..." (Ephesians 6:18)*

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:9

*"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" 6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1-8)*

2.) Paul was fully convinced of the Gospel.

A.) Paul prayed to his Father,

*"Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:9-11)*

B.) through Jesus,

*"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)*

C.) and with the Holy Spirit.