



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Don't Compromise Your Prayer Time (Prayerlessness Part 5)

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What is Prayer Time?

Prayer time is your personal quiet time with God. It is when you have your Bible, journal, and music player with you; play worship songs; wait for Him to speak; and, write down His message to you. It is the time for you to talk less and listen more.

Privileges of Talking to God

- When we always talk to God, our connection to Him is stronger and that connection should remain.
- We will know Him more.
- We learn to recognize His voice which is very important for not all voices that we will hear will come from God (1 Jn. 4:1).

Establish Your Prayer Time

You should establish your prayer time in the morning, when you are still not busy and tired. You should follow Jesus' example of getting up very early in the morning and going off to a solitary place to pray (Mk. 1:35).

Reflection: Are you willing to pay the price just to be closer to Him?

Establishing your prayer time will cause a lot. Early morning is suggested for it is when you are free from business. However, if, due to the nature of your work, you are unable to give quality time to talk to God in the morning, do it in the evening, but not after you wasted your time glued to the television or so tired from work because you will not be able to give Him quality time.

If you want to establish a closer connection with God, establish your prayer time.

How long should my prayer time be?

It depends on you and how long you really want to be with God.

Don't Compromise Your Prayer Time

In Dan. 6, Daniel, who was a spirit-filled person, was highly favored by King Darius. The king planned to set

Daniel over the whole kingdom (v. 3). Like Daniel, we should do everything with excellence for God deserves excellence.

Jealous of Daniel due to the King's favor, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against him in his conduct of government affairs, but they could not find any (v. 4). As leaders, we should always be above reproach like Daniel (1 Tim. 3).

As the administrators and the satraps gratified their flesh by entertaining jealousy, the second enemy, Satan, came into the picture. These two are opposed to the Holy Spirit. So, Satan filled their minds and led them to use Daniel's habit of prayer against him. That is the only thing that they thought would land Daniel into trouble, especially if their plan succeeded.

Those who were jealous of Daniel got King Darius to issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to King Darius himself, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

When Daniel found out that King Darius signed the decree, which banned praying to God for a month, he went home and still prayed. Despite the threat on his life, he did not compromise his prayer time.

The Lord promised us that if we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these things shall be added unto us (Mt. 6:33). All we have to do is ask (Mt. 7:7) and call unto God (Jer. 33:3). Anytime, God is free. So, do not compromise anything that is for the Lord for He will never fail those who are right with Him.

Prayer has divided the sea when the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt. It also caused the big fish to vomit Jonah from its belly. We have seen prayers move mountains in other occasions in the past as well. Prayer is a mighty force in the world. God's children can conquer anything by prayer.

Reflection: Why don't we pray more?

One concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless work and religion. He laughs at our toil and our wisdom because

he knows that anything we do without prayer is not going to succeed. We must not rely on ourselves only for without God, nothing we do will succeed.

Prayerlessness causes...

- Sin. The Bible commands Christians to always pray (1 Thes. 5:17) for prayerlessness leaves the door open for other sins (Mt. 26:41).
- Sad results. God's people do not get what they ought to have because they did not pray (Jas. 4:2).
- God's work to suffer and languish for we must not rely on ourselves alone as we serve Him.

What does prayerlessness show?

- A. Prayerlessness shows lack of real enjoyment of God. It reveals the reality of your heart. If we really love God, then we enjoy spending more hours in His presence just as we enjoy being with someone we love. Prayerlessness proves that we do not really enjoy God. Let us be honest. Do not offer prayers simply as a matter of duty (Mt. 15:8).
- B. Prayerlessness proves our unbelief. How can we pray if we do not believe we would get anywhere with it?
- C. Prayerlessness demonstrates that God is not first in our lives.

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