



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

The Sin of Prayerlessness (Part 2)

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When David was in distress and surrounded by violence, he yearned to fly away to a place where he can rest (Ps. 55:6). He wanted to evade the situation he was in but it was impossible. He can only give his circumstance to God. Evening, morning, and noon, David cried out to God in distress, and He saved him (Ps. 55:16-17).

Crying out to God is prayer. There is no problem that God cannot solve when we call upon Him. Whether it is a burdensome ministry, difficult marriage, joblessness or loneliness, we can give it all to God for He cares for us (1 Pt. 5:7).

Reflection: Are you burdened with a load of care?

Instead of attempting to fly away from your burdens, count your many blessings and every doubt will fly away. One way to solve your problems is to call on God.

When you neglect praying, you neglect finding out from God what He wants you to do. It is best to talk to God in the morning so that you will know what He wants you to do for the day.

Part 2: Prayerlessness is a sin against self.

- A. We impoverish ourselves when we neglect to pray.
- Prayer is a divinely ordained channel through which we are to receive things that are essential in our lives and in carrying on the work of God.
 - Many times, we make decisions without really submitting and waiting for God's reply because we get impatient. If we prayed and waited, God could have guided us and we would have been saved from trouble.
 - Early in the morning we should rise up and seek God so that we would not miss anything.
- B. Prayerlessness reveals something tragic about our spiritual heart condition.
- Neglect of prayer indicates smug spiritual satisfaction. We get morally lazy and it leads to unbelief and preoccupation with the world.
 - If we are truly praying, evidence of it will manifest in our lives.

- Reflection: Are we excited to come to our Praise and Worship every Saturday?
- Some of us would rather be somewhere else than be in the church or community. This reveals that we are not true worshippers of the Lord for true worshippers are always glad to go to the Lord's house (Ps. 122:1).
- If we succumb to laziness, making excuses, and prioritizing making more money over God, then we should question the condition of our spiritual heart for where our treasure is, there our heart will be also (Mt. 6:21).
- Reflection: What are the material things that we cannot leave behind in order to worship God?
- The Lord is not pleased when we make excuses (Lk. 14:24).

Part 3: Prayerlessness is a sin against others.

- A. When we do not pray, we rob others of blessings.
- The Lord wants us to pray for everyone (1 Tim. 2:1) and to pray unceasingly (1 Thes. 5:17).
 - We should not plan ahead of God. If we make wrong decisions due to lack of prayer, others would be affected, too.
- B. We have to develop a prayerful spirit.
- Set a time for prayer in your daily schedule.
 - Pray with faith until you get an answer from God.
 - Pray about needs and problems as they arise.
 - Follow the Biblical example of prayer (ex. Jesus, Daniel, Esther, Peter, Paul, the early Christians).

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against powers of this dark world (Eph. 6:12). Therefore, we must always pray for one another (Eph. 6:18).

Prayer is where Satan attacks us. If he undoes us in our prayers, nothing else we do will matter. If he can get us not to pray, he will severely hinder our spiritual growth.

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