

Prayer

No standard of religion is worth a moment's consideration which leaves prayer out of the account. No standard is worth any thought which does not make prayer the main thing in religion. So necessary is prayer, so fundamental in God's plan, so all important to everything like a religious life, that it enters into all biblical religion. Prayer itself is a standard, definite, emphatic, scriptural. A life of prayer is the divine rule. This is the pattern, just as our Lord, being a man of prayer, is the one pattern for us after whom to copy. Prayer fashions the pattern of a religious life. Prayer is the measure. Prayer molds the life.

- E.M. Bounds

Purpose

Prayer is like breathing. It can be as easy as whispering in our heart or underneath our breath, or it can be as involved as spending hours focused on and passionately praying for another person. Prayer is as essential as breathing. Without prayer, intimacy with God is impossible. Prayer in its most base definition is communication with God. This communication can take an infinite number of forms. Some people kneel, others walk; some talk out loud, others sit silently; some follow lists, others free form. No matter the form or method, God hears our prayers.

Prayer is ministry. There is no greater expression of love for another person than to pray for them. God desires us to express all our worries, hopes, desires, fears, joys, loves and frustrations. As we pray, God listens. The flipside is that once we have poured out our hearts, we must take a turn in being silent and listening. God isn't concerned with our eloquence, God doesn't require us to observe certain forms, rather God is most concerned that we spend time seeking after him.

As we set aside 24 hours for prayer. We hope to accomplish three things:

The first is to praise God. During our hour, we desire to take a few minutes to recall all the things God has done. We can sing worship songs of our love. We can recount God's unfailing love. As with all good times of prayer, we begin with a

time praising the name of the Lord Almighty and celebrating God's incredible and miraculous love for us.

The second is to press in and voice our concerns and desires for God's action. We take time to pray for each other. We pray for the concerns of our church and each ministry. We take time to pray for Corvallis, for Oregon, for the United States and for the world. We have set aside this time to ask the Lord our Provider to meet our needs. We take these 24 hours to intercede before the Lord our Protector and Healer to intervene on behalf of others. We seek the Lord Almighty to express our love and affirm our dependence upon our Creator.

The third is to honor God. By choosing to take time out of our busy schedules to spend a focused hour with God we honor our Lord. Through fasting from an hour of activity and centering an hour of our life on God, we affirm God's importance in our lives. Through taking time out to actively listen, we tell God of our love through action, the action of being before God in silence.

As we come to this time, enter into it with expectancy. God will meet us, God will meet you, and God will speak as we seek God's face.

Join us in this encounter of prayer.

Community prayer times

The community times of prayer are during the first and last hour of 24 Prayer. These opportunities are designed to kick off and close the 24 hours. The first is a valuable time to help us begin focusing on the hour we will be spending with God during the next day. The latter is a valuable time of community celebration and thanksgiving to God for listening, speaking and acting.

These community times are optional. You don't have to attend either in order to volunteer for a time of prayer. They are simply opportunities designed to focus our hearts and minds and to prepare the house of God for prayer.

How it works

- Our goal is to have at least one person on-site praying every hour during the 24 hours of prayer.
- Coffee, hot drinks and water are provided and located in the church entry area
- The church phone is located in the entry. Feel free to use it in the event of an emergency or to call someone who is late.

- Please arrive five minutes before your scheduled time. This will allow you time to prepare a beverage and center your thoughts and heart on prayer.
 - When your hour arrives, quietly let the people praying know you have arrived.
 - If a person is late for their prayer time, please call them once and leave a message. If you do not hear back, call Pastor John or, if you wish, you may continue in prayer for the next hour.
 - If every hour is signed out on the schedule, don't feel left out. Come and join quietly in prayer. The church is large and can hold several people praying at the same time. If a person who has signed up is in a specific room, please be courteous and either ask permission to join them in that room, or head into another part of the church, i.e.: the prayer room, fireside room, etc.
 - In the Sanctuary you will find the following:
 - The sign up schedule with phone numbers.
 - One or more prayer guides with Scripture references.
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Late night Times

- Starting with the 12:00 am shift, through the 7:00 am shift, we request that only spouses or those of the same gender pray together. Again, this is to promote safety and accountability.

Can people pray at the church who are not signed up?

- Please come at any time to join in prayer whether you have signed up or not. Simply be quiet and courteous to others who are currently in prayer.

Can I pray at home?

- By all means pray at home, yet, the purpose of 24 Prayer is to have someone on-site all throughout the 24 hours. So, join us in prayer wherever you are. However, let those who are physically able to be at the church use the sign up. Please let Pastor John know when you prayed off-site and we will make sure to include that in our hours of prayer.

Suggested ideas for your prayer time

- Spend 5-10 minutes praising and thanking God.
- Invite God to guide you in your prayer time.
 - o Use a prayer guide or the current prayer request list.
 - o Read a passage of scripture, silently or out loud, as you begin to pray for people.
 - o Sing a worship song that comes to mind.
- Pray in a form or method that best suits you.
- Even though we have prayer guides, always pray as the Spirit of God guides you.

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