



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

A Passion for Prayer

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The Bible has a lot to say about prayer - when and how to pray:

1. Prayer as a passion.

- Prayer is Jesus' priority. Very early in the morning, before daylight, Jesus left the house to a place where He prayed (Mark 1:35).
- Daniel is also passionate about prayer. He is known as a man of an excellent spirit. When he learned that a decree was issued which prohibits everyone to pray for 30 days, anyone found violating the order will be thrown to Lion's den, he went home and prayed to God three times a day just as he had always done (Dan. 6:10).
- When we are passionate about prayer, we do not get scared.
- When praying becomes a habit, it becomes hard to break.
- When you have that kind of relationship with God, you fear no one. You are sure that He will save you.

2. Pray without ceasing. When we pray, thank Him for this is His will (1 Thes. 5:17-18).

- Talk to God at all times, be dependent on Him. Even Jesus, when He chose His disciples, He prayed all night long (Luke 6:12), though He is God, He can discern, but He did not rely on His own.
- Prayer should be a priority.
- Pray for others, quietly interceding for them.
- God answers even simple prayers.

3. Pray Constantly.

- Cornelius was a religious man, he and his whole family worshiped God. He also helped the Jewish poor people and was constantly praying to God. An angel appeared in his vision, telling him that God is pleased with him and that He is ready to answer his prayers (Acts 10:2-4).

4. Pray night and day (1 Thes. 3:10).

How to Pray

1. Pray in the Spirit (Jude 20).

- Our heart is where the Spirit dwells, pray from the heart that is full of truth.

2. Pray using the gift of faith (Jas. 5:15).

- Do not worry about anything, but let your prayers be known (Phil. 4:6).
- Do not doubt (Jas. 1:6), it displeases God.

3. Pray with a believing heart.

- When you pray, believe that you have received it (Mk. 11:24).
- Before you pray, ask for the Holy Spirit to guide you (Rom. 8:26-27).

4. Pray fervently/earnestly (Jas. 5:16-17).

- A heartfelt prayer of a righteous person has power.
- When you ask in prayer, you are sure that you will get an answer.

5. Pray boldly.

- Approach God's throne confidently so we may receive mercy and find grace (Heb. 4:16).

6. Pray positively/truthfully.

- Peter said, I have no money, but I give you what I have in the Name of Jesus, I order you to get up and walk (Acts 3:6).
- Claim God's promises when you pray.

Passion in prayer is needed for the kind of world that we live in today.

Passion comes from desire. Desire is a deep-seated craving, it precedes prayer.

Be passionate; let us keep the fire of God burning in our lives!

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