

Luke 18:1b
Men ought always to pray, and not to faint (KJV)
How is your prayer life?

It is bleak reality when we hear about the current events that are happening in the world today health scares, stock market unstableness, rumors of wars, hate crimes, businesses closing or downsizing. In addition, when we look at our personal situations family, job, school, ministry, health the list goes on. It leads us to a state of wondering is there a solution to these problems. Is there anything that will solve or address our current circumstances? We know there is an answer to everything in life because the Bible tells us there is nothing new under the sun. Since we have concerns, we also have a way to address them.

The Bible says we have not because we ask not. So if we ask we are sure to receive an answer. The key is to ask. So when we make supplication to God and continue to praise Him for who He is we reap benefits as His children.

I am reminded of a story I heard from a dad that had taken his three daughters shopping. As they were walking around the mall the girls saw a sale at the store Forever 21. The dad was trying to ignore the store by looking straight ahead however the girls were praying that he let them go to Forever 21. They asked their daddy could they go in the store for a minute so he said sure. So he gave each of the girls \$50 and told them they had 15 minutes and he would meet them at the cash register. One daughter took her \$50 and ran off, another daughter took her \$50 and ran over to the earrings and the one daughter asked her dad if she could stay with him. So he said okay. So he was walking around the store with his daughter and she said “dad do you like those acid washed jeans” and he replied “yea those are some nice jeans.” She said, “You’re the best dad ever, do you think I should get them? So he replied, “Yea I think you should get them. So they

started walking again and the girl said to her dad “You are the best dad in the store so they kept walking and the daughter saw a beautiful pink sweater that would go so nice with the jeans. She said to her dad, “What do you think about that sweater the dad replied that’s a nice sweater; the daughter replied do you think I should get it and he replied, “I think you should get it. So she saw a short fuchsia coat that complements the jeans and sweater so well and asked her dad what he thought about the coat and he said it was a nice coat and she asked do you think I should get it?” The dad said yes I think you should get it. So then she said to her dad, Daddy I don’t have any earrings and he said I think you should get them. So she got one pair earring and told her dad these are for every day now I need some earrings for special occasions. So her dad told her to go get the earrings and the daughter replied dad I love you so much I can’t believe you bought me all of this. As they approach the cash register the other two daughters were already there with their \$50 worth of merchandise but the daughter that stayed with the dad had \$150 sitting on the counter. Her sisters got an attitude and asked why did she get all of that and the sister replied “Because I walked with him.” When we learn how to walk with Jesus and pray to him according to His will there are some things that we get that others won’t get. From this story we learned that the sisters received what they asked for but the daughter that walked with their farther received even more.

When we walk and talk with Jesus the answers to the questions we have can be found through prayer. Prayer is making our request known to God and he loves to hear from us. There is no need for big words. Jesus is the perfect example of prayer and intercession. He will always answer yes, no or wait. Jesus life was spent in unbroken communication with the Father. Jesus prayed for himself, Jesus prayed for his apostles and He interceded in prayer for all believers in

John 17 the night he was arrested in the garden. Jesus taught the disciples the model prayer which is recorded in Matthew 6. How is your prayer life?

Prayer was so important to His disciples that they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. And Jesus gave them the model prayer. We as disciples also should ask Him how to pray and what to pray for. We should A.S.A.P. which means always say a prayer. Richard Foster, author of *Celebration of Discipline* said, "All who walked with God viewed prayer as the main business of their lives." How is your prayer life?

David said, *Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud* Psalms 55:17. Daniel prayed three times a day Daniel 6:10. Hannah prayed in silence and Eli thought she was drunk I Samuel 1:13. Sometimes Jesus prayed all night, Luke 6:12, sometimes Jesus prayed early in the morning Mark 1:35. How is your prayer life?

John Wesley says, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer," and backed up his conviction by praying with spending three hours daily in prayer." [CITATION Ric78 \l 1033]. We may not have three hour daily to spend practicing the discipline of prayer however we can call on the name of Jesus that is prayer, we can pray over the food we eat that is prayer or we can say Lord have mercy on me, or the person walking the street, sleeping on the train all of that is prayer and takes less than a minute. No prayer is no power much prayer is much power. How is your prayer life?

Prayer is a spiritual discipline that we are instructed by God to do. It is not an option or a privilege, but we are commanded in First Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing and in the text men ought to always pray. Prayer has been spoken of as the breath of spiritual life. The more time we invest in prayer with God the stronger we are. It can almost be compared to a

bank account the less you put in the less you can take out but the more you put in the more you can withdraw. How is your prayer life?

Ministry is birthed through prayer. The more time spent in prayer the more anointed the ministry. We have heard testimony to the effects of prayer. We are told in II Chronicles 7:14, *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*” How is your prayer life?

In the book by E.M. Bounds, *Pastor and Prayer Why and How Pastor’s Ought to Pray* he states, “Our ability to stay with God in solitude measures our ability to stay with God in public. The greatest victories are often the result of great waiting—waiting until words and plans are exhausted, and silent, patient waiting gains the crown.” Be silent before the LORD and wait patiently for him (Psalms 37:7). To pray is the greatest thing we can do, and to do it well there must be calmness, time, and deliberation. How is your prayer life?

I recently just finished the forty day prayer challenge in the book, *Draw the Circle* by Mark Batterson and have seen amazing results. So I challenge you and encourage you no matter where you are in your prayer life there is still room for more. Will you remember to P.U.S.H? Pray until something happens. To God be the glory!