



Series: Self-Reliance

Sermon: Part 1: Why Pray?

Date: Sunday, October 23rd, 2022

Lack of prayer = _____

What is the purpose of prayer? Why do we pray and why is prayer so important to God?

Whenever we pray we are declaring: "God, I need _____."

Whenever we don't pray we are declaring "God, I don't need You."

Why Do We Pray?

1. Prayer is an act of _____ and _____

"Devote yourselves to prayer..." (Colossians 4:2)

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

"When we get to the end of ourselves, we get to the beginning of God." (Pastor Alan Redpath)

The more we pray the more we are declaring our dependence on God and the less we pray the less we are declaring our dependence on God.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in Me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:5-7)

2. Prayer is an act of _____

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in My Name the Father will give you." (John 15:15-16)



3. Prayer is an act of _____

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

“You do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:2 NLT)

4. Prayer is an act of _____

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My Name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask Me for anything in My Name, and I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

Next Steps Over These Next 40 Days:

- 1. Make a commitment to come to church**
- 2. Join a Life Group**
- 3. Join a Prayer Tripod Group**
- 4. Pray on your own**

Bottom Line: *Whenever we pray, we are declaring: “God, I need You.”*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. What does your prayer life currently look like? Would you consider yourself to be more self-reliant or God-reliant?
2. What makes it hard for you to devote time to prayer? What aspect of your life makes it hard for you to fully depend on God?
3. How are you hoping to see God move in your life over these next 40 days?

Songs used in service: Who I Am (Ben Fuller), Broken Vessels (Hillsong), Lord, I Need You (Matt Maher), Battle Belongs (Phil Wickham)

-----Tear Here -----

Any prayer requests?

Name: _____ **Email (so we can follow up):** _____

What can we be praying for you about?