



# Why We Ought to Pray

1 TIMOTHY 2:1

# Prayer

- ▶ Luke 11:2
- ▶ Man speaks: “When you pray, say”
- ▶ Addressed to God: “Our Father in Heaven”
- ▶ Characterized by Reverence: “Hallowed be Your name”
- ▶ Heard by God: Matthew 6:6-8: “sees”; “heard”
- ▶ But Psalm 66:18-19; John 9:1

# 1 Timothy 2:1

- ▶ Supplications / Entreaties – stresses a request to supply a need
  - ▶ Hebrews 5:7
- ▶ Prayers – more general term
- ▶ Intercessions / Petitions – stresses a pleading or petitioning on behalf of others
  - ▶ 1 Timothy 2:2
- ▶ Thanksgivings

# The Skeptic: But Why Pray?

- ▶ “God is omniscient, so He already knows what we need”
  - ▶ Psalm 139:1-4; Matthew 7:11
- ▶ “But God is unchangeable”
  - ▶ 1 Samuel 15:29
  - ▶ Abraham, Genesis 18:20-33
  - ▶ Moses, Exodus 32:9-14
  - ▶ Hezekiah, 2 Kings 20:1-5
- ▶ “But miracles have ceased”
  - ▶ Job 38:2; Esther 4:14
- ▶ “Only to make me feel better”
  - ▶ Psalm 86:7

# We ought to pray because...

## God commands us to pray

- ▶ Jesus prayed, and He taught men to pray
  - ▶ Matthew 6:9
  - ▶ Luke 18:1
- ▶ The apostles prayed and they taught men to pray
  - ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18
  - ▶ Colossians 4:2
- ▶ We ought to pray because we believe God, and God says to pray!

# We ought to pray because...

## God is near and hears us

- ▶ Psalm 139:7-10
- ▶ Acts 17:27
- ▶ Hebrews 10:22; James 4:8
- ▶ 1 John 5:13-15
- ▶ We ought to pray because we believe and know that God is near and that He hears the prayers of His children!

# We ought to pray because...

## Of God's power

- ▶ James 5:16-18
- ▶ Ephesians 3:20-21
- ▶ Because God is all-powerful, we ought to pray to Him because we know and believe that He has the power to answer our prayers!

We ought to pray because...

God deserves our praise and thanksgiving

- ▶ Luke 17:15-18
- ▶ Psalm 107:1
- ▶ Philippians 4:6



# We ought to pray because...

## God deserves our praise and thanksgiving

▶ Thankful for:

- ▶ Victory through Jesus – 1 Corinthians 15:57; 1 Timothy 1:12
- ▶ Daily bread – Acts 14:17
- ▶ Brethren – Philippians 1:3
- ▶ Precious promises – 2 Peter 1:4
- ▶ Daily mercies – Lamentations 3:22-24

# We ought to pray because...

## God deserves our praise and thanksgiving

- ▶ Praise

  - ▶ Matthew 6:9-13

  - ▶ Psalm 18:3; 145:3; 103-104

  - ▶ Revelation 4:11

- ▶ Beautiful example

  - ▶ 1 Chronicles 29:10-15

- ▶ We ought to pray because we owe God praise and thanksgiving!

# We ought to pray because...

## We are in need, and He can provide

- ▶ Both our own and others'
- ▶ Physical needs – Matthew 6:11
- ▶ Health – James 5:14; 3 John 2
- ▶ Wisdom – James 1:5; Colossians 1:9-11
- ▶ The difficulties of suffering – James 5:13; Acts 12:5
- ▶ Dealing with cares – 1 Peter 5:6-7; Philippians 4:6-7
- ▶ Courage and boldness – Acts 4:29; Ephesians 6:18-20
- ▶ Forgiveness – Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:5-10
- ▶ Opportunity to bring others to Christ – Colossians 4:3

# We ought to pray because...


## We are in need, and He can provide

- ▶ For others – who?
  - ▶ The lost – Romans 10:1
  - ▶ Leaders – 1 Timothy 2:2
  - ▶ Enemies – Matthew 5:43-46
  - ▶ Spiritual well-being of brethren – Romans 15:13
  - ▶ Husband, wife, children, family
- ▶ We ought to pray because we are in need and others are in need!

# We ought to pray because...

Praying is part of being watchful and ready for the Lord's return

- ▶ Matthew 26:41
- ▶ 1 Peter 4:7
- ▶ Luke 18:1, 8
- ▶ We ought to continue steadfastly in prayer in order to be watchful and ready for the Lord's return!

- 
- ▶ What a privilege it is to pray
  - ▶ We ought to pray because
    - ▶ God commands us to pray
    - ▶ God is near and hears us
    - ▶ God has the power to answer
    - ▶ We owe God praise and thanksgiving
    - ▶ We are in need, and God can supply our needs
  - ▶ Make time to pray!