

WHY DO WE PRAY?

The story is told of a young preacher watching an old sculptor who was on his knees putting the finishing touches on a beautiful statue. The preacher commented, "I wish I could deal such changing blows to the hearts of men." "You can," replied the wise sculptor, "if you work as I am working – on your knees."

Prayer can do what no sermon can do. I can tell the difference in my own ministry when I am faithful in prayer. Our ability to withstand life's blows is directly related to our prayer life. Prayer is an essential part of every believer's life.

Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). The Greek word faint means to lose strength, to become weary, to lose heart, and to be discouraged because answers do not come immediately. The command is: pray always and do not become discouraged because answers do not come immediately.

Jesus said to Peter, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). If you read the story, you will find that Peter failed to pray and shortly afterward yielded to his flesh, choosing to protect himself by denying Jesus (Matthew 26:57-75). We are commanded to always pray and not to faint.

As Christians, we need faithfulness in our prayer life. Paul when addressing the conflict that believers are engaged in and the protections of this conflict, said: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" (Ephesians 6:18). Praying always simply means "an attitude of God-consciousness – seeing every experience of life in relation to God." James said, "The effectual fervent of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). It has been said, "Somehow prayer activated God. He doesn't always say yes to our prayers, but He does always answer. John said, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (1 John 5:14-15).

Jerry W. Arnold
All Rights Reserved