Why Do I Struggle To Pray

Greg Kline · Isaiah 37

INTRODUCTION

- Prayer is the essential lifeblood of one who says they are in a relationship with God.
- And so Hezekiah did the only thing that a follower of God knows to do, which is to take the problem to God.
- The Assyrians were coming, so Hezekiah trusted in God, and God delivered.

1 We Don't Always Make the Time

Ephesians 5:16

- If we know we should trust in God, why do we still struggle to pray?
- We need to redeem the time, make the best use of the time because the days are evil.
- We don't have the time because we're so busy. But the only reason that would ever impact a relationship with anyone is if we don't make the time.
- If I'm not making the time, I can tell you, just like in any human relationship, it's not going well.

2 Perhaps We Don't Know What to Say

Matthew 6:9–13; Isaiah 37:16

- Maybe it's not that we don't know what to say. We don't think what we have to say is worthy.
- Not only does Jesus eliminate this excuse entirely, he teaches us what to say and gives us a pattern upon which we can develop our prayer life with God.
- If we're going to pray to our Creator, doesn't that seem like the perfect time to offer Him the praise, glory, and honor that belongs to Him?
- If we truly remember that God cares, knows, and delivers all that is good, there will be nothing that we think isn't important enough for our God.

3 We Struggle to Pray Because We Don't Really Believe

Philippians 4:4–7; 1 Timothy 2:1–2

- Maybe we don't pray about certain things because we don't really think that God either cares, or more importantly, that it will make a difference.
- In everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God.
- I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and for all who are in high positions.
- There is not truly power in prayer. The power of prayer is in the God whom we access via prayer.

4 We Need to Be Like Jesus

Luke 5:12–16

- But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.
- If Jesus recognizes and practices the importance of taking time to pray, how much more do I need to do that?
- We have to set aside time to pray because we are not better than Jesus.

5 We Need to Pray Hopefully, Not Hopefully

Romans 15:4

- For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction that through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.
- Hope is in the Bible terms a fixed expectation and assurance.
- We have to pray hopefully, with the fixed assurance that God hears, that God cares, and that my relationship with God transcends this physical life with all of its struggles and heartaches.
- Prayer doesn't just tell about our relationship with God, it reveals our relationship with other people.

6 Truly Trust in the Power of God

Isaiah 37:6–7; Isaiah 37:36–38

- How do I grow my faith and my prayer life to go from not really trusting to fully trusting?
- The first and most obvious answer is we have to read more about our God.
- God, time and time again answers the prayers of those who call for him, and if he does not, he has a plan anyway.
- Our God keeps his promises. Our God is great. Our God is good.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **But our prayer life cannot suffer because we don't get the answers we want. Because our prayer life should flourish.**

MY NOTES