



**Educate
+ Engage**



ANCHORS:

prayer



OVERVIEW

We are at the end of our Anchors series! We have been focusing on anchors derived from Acts 2:42 (KJV): "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." So far, we have covered three Anchors: principles, participation, and perspective. Now we focus on prayer.

Scripture Passage

1 Thessalonians 5:17, NLT

Never stop praying.

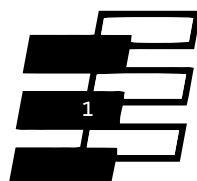
EDUCATE

In a digital world, we have access to a wealth of powerful and useful information, tools, and resources. With the increase of scammers and hackers, many new requirements have become necessary for passwords to require a certain length of characters, numbers, and symbols. Have you ever tried to access an online account but forgot your password and were denied access? It can be beyond frustrating. The good news is that we have access to the power and presence of God through the anchor of prayer.

Navigating the storms and winds of life can be challenging and would be impossible on our own. But thankfully we have access to Jesus Christ through prayer, and He will not deny our attempts to connect with Him. From beginning to end, the Bible records God's efforts to connect with His people.

In Genesis—the first book of the Bible—we read of God connecting with humanity in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3 mentions that God walked in the Garden in the cool of the day with Adam and Eve. He spent time with them, communicating and building relationship with them. Then in Revelation—the last book of the Bible—God is still reaching out to His people; still trying to connect: "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in" (Revelation 3:20, NLT).

It is important for us to understand that God is ready right now to connect with each of us. But we must make the decision to open the door to relationship with Him through the anchor of prayer.



Why Should We Pray?

Some ask the question, "Why should we pray?" Simply put, the Bible clearly instructs us to pray and gives us plenty of reasons why we should pray.

- Luke 18:1 (NLT): "One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up."
- Colossians 4:2 (NLT): "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart."
- Ephesians 6:18 (NLT): "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."
- Matthew 26:41 (NLT): "Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

Smart Connections

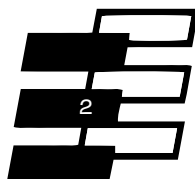
Not only does prayer give us access to God, but it also gives us access to His power and resources. When your parents feel that you should have one, getting a smartphone is pretty handy. But imagine having the latest and greatest phone but only getting to turn it on for one hour, twice a week. Yes, those two hours would be great, but it would also be a major waste of the purpose and potential of the phone.

Now let's view prayer in the same way. Prayer is powerful and when utilized has great potential and purpose. However, most people will only access the power of God through prayer twice a week at church. But when they leave, they are disconnected from His power and resources. But by staying connected to God through daily prayer, we will be continually connected to His power and His resources. It will absolutely change our lives for the better!

When Should We Pray?

Our goal over the course of these lessons has been to develop some anchors that will help keep our relationships with God strong and secure through the storms of life. Prayer should be one of those anchors. Let's quickly look at what the Bible says about when we should pray:

- I Chronicles 16:11 (NLT): "Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him."
- I Corinthians 1:4 (NLT): "I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus."
- I Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT): "Never stop praying."



Lesson 4

The Bible is clear that prayer should be a daily priority in the life of every believer. While we balance the responsibilities of life, we need to make it a priority to pray as often as we can!

What Happens When We Pray?

Getting into the habit of being in a state of prayer will absolutely change our attitude, mindset, and outlook on life. As we grow in our relationships with God, we can go much deeper in prayer, intercede on behalf of others, engage in spiritual warfare, and be used in the gifts of the Spirit. But the starting point that will lead us into those deeper things of God is daily, consistent prayer.

Be assured—the anchor of prayer works.

Consider James 5:14–16 (NLT): “Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

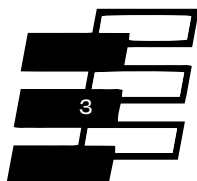
In Matthew 7:7 (NLT) Jesus was teaching on prayer and taught: “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you” (NLT).

And John 14:13–14 (NLT) encourages: “You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!”

Closing

Cornelia “Corrie” ten Boom was a Dutch Christian who risked her life to help many Jews escape the Holocaust during World War II. At one point she and her family were imprisoned for their actions and were sent to different prisons and concentration camps. Through a miraculous clerical error, she was released from prison in 1944. Through everything she faced, she understood that the way she was going to get through it all was staying connected to God by the anchor of prayer. One of her most famous quotes is: “Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.”

Prayer doesn’t happen on accident. Prayer requires us to be intentional. Prayer requires hard work. Prayer requires discipline and desire. As Romans 12:11–12 (NLT) states: “Never be lazy,



but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying."

We must be faithful to the anchor of prayer.

ENGAGE

It's time that we get connected and stay connected to God's power, building our personal relationships with Him. Attending church on Sundays and Wednesdays will help us and strengthen our walk with God, but regular communication with Jesus Christ and daily devotion are what will sustain us.

Prayer is worth it. Prayer will change our lives forever! It is crucial for us to understand how important it is to stay connected to the anchor of prayer. Let's ask the Lord to help us develop an enduring connection to Him through prayer. And let's plan a time and place every day for us to spend quality time with God in prayer.

