

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Chapter 8 - When: Scheduled Prayer

Chapter 9 - When: Spontaneous Prayer

Park Plaza Brookside * Fireside Room

January 30, 2016

Opening Prayer

Lord, when we look at our average day, we see a lot of things that we never consider not doing or making time for. Each day. Every day. And yet prayer – why can we so easily decide not to block out a set time for something this essential? Help us not continue to make this mistake. Thank You for always being here, ready to communicate with us. We commit, Lord, to being there to communicate with You. Amen.

When?

All the Time!

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "... Pray without ceasing."

Prayer should become a Sacred Habit

When?

- Wait! What! All the time? I can't do that – it's impossible!
- Actually, you can.
- If –
 - Kids play all the time ...
 - Teenagers text all the time ...
 - Husbands snore all the time ...
 - Wives are loving and caring and attentive all the time ...
- You can pray all the time
- Let me show you how ...

All the Time!

23,040

960

16

Like breathing

All the Time!

Like Incense

Revelation 5:8 – “... and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”

Psalm 141:2 – “May my prayer be counted as incense before You; the lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.”

All the Time!



Exodus 30:7-8

“Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. There shall be a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.”

[Look at the size of that thing! See the rings? It had to be carried like the Ark of the Covenant.]

Oh, look – a Squirrel!



- Why incense? Why the sense of smell?
- Smell Rings a Bell – of the 5 senses, the smell “plumbing” runs through the memory areas of the brain.
- We remember all that God has done for us
- Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me.”
- Back to our regularly scheduled programming.

All the Time!

- Always keep your incense burning ...
- Always keep your spirit in “prayer” mode
- Always commune with God

BUT ...

All the Time!

- Aaron had a schedule time to tend to the *Altar of Incense*
 - Every morning
 - At twilight
- We should schedule time to tend to our *Altar of Incense*
- We should schedule time to pray

Scheduled Prayer Times

- Mealtime –
“Please bless this food for the nourishment of our bodies.”
- Holiday meals
 - Easter
 - Thanksgiving
 - Christmas
- Morning - caffeine jolt to start the day i.e. coffee, tea or soft-drink
 - Shall we take the coffee hostage?
- Bedtime -
“Now I lay me down to sleep.
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.”

Scheduled Prayer Times

- Worship Service
 - Opening Prayer
 - Communion Prayers (bread & wine)
 - Contribution Prayer
 - Closing Prayers
- Graduation Ceremonies
- Congress – opening of each session
- Newspaper
- School Prayer – now a “Moment of Silence”
- Sporting Events

Scheduled Prayer Times

- King David – 3 times a day
“Evening and morning, and at noon I will pray” (Psalm 55:17)
- Daniel (Advisor to the King) – 3 times a day
- They were busy and found, no, made time to pray

Scheduled Prayer Times

- Sometimes I am so busy, I have to schedule an “appointment” with myself so I can get a project done
- Example: If a rich man offered to give you \$1,000 per day to come to his house every morning and ring his doorbell at exactly 6:00 am, could you do it? Would you do it?
- Would you do it for \$10,000 per day?
- Are you too busy to take your medicine?
- How much more valuable are the heavenly riches, heavenly medicine God is offering to us!
- Could you do it?
- More importantly, would you do it?

Apple iPhone



- Select the “Clock” App
- Select “Alarms” on the bottom bar
- Press the red “+” symbol in the top right corner
- Set the time using the hour, minute, and am/pm “wheels”

Apple iPhone



- Select “Repeat” and choose which days, then press “< Back”
- Select “Label” and type “Prayer Time”, and then press “< Back”
- Select “Sound” and you can choose a song or a ringtone
- Turn “Snooze” off

Android Phone



- Select the “Clock” app
- Press the “Alarm” icon on the top bar
- Press the red “+” symbol at the bottom of the screen
- Set the time (hour, minute, and am/pm)

Android Phone



- Select the “Repeat” checkbox and choose which days
- Press the “Bell” icon and select a ringtone
- Check or uncheck vibrate
- Select “Sound” and you can choose a song or a ringtone
- Type “Prayer Time” as a label

Other Scheduled Prayer Time

- Married Couples – ever heard of a couple that prays together every day getting divorced? When I listen to Dana's prayers I learn a lot about what is on her heart.
- Families
- Congregations / Branches
- Congregations within a city

Scheduled Prayer

A Sacred Habit

Spontaneous Prayer

- Unplanned
- Activity-focused
- Reflex
- Besides scheduled times, we should be ready to pray at any time, under any circumstance, about anything or everything.

Spontaneous Prayer

Pray NOW!

Spontaneous Prayer



- Leaving Parents' house
- Driving down Pittsburg Avenue
- Started to slide on icy road
- Black C4 Corvette was coming up the hill – headed straight for it
- Spontaneously said a quick prayer, “Dear Jesus, please don’t let me hit that Corvette.”

Spontaneous Prayer - Newness

- Baby Dedication
- Day
- House
- Job
- School
- Season of Life
- Vehicle

Spontaneous Prayer - Newness

- Joshua dedicated the land of Israel to God (Joshua 3)
- King David dedicated Jerusalem when it became the new capital (2 Samuel 6:17)
- King Solomon dedicated the new temple to God (1 Kings 8)

Spontaneous Prayer - Needs

- God is in the “need-meeting” business
- God is known as Jehovah Jireh – the God who Provides
- God knows what we need before we even ask him (Matthew 6:8-11)

- Physical – No Problem
- Emotional – No Problem
- Spiritual – No Problem

Spontaneous Prayer - Blessings

- God ... Provides
 - God ... Protects
 - God ... Forgives
 - God ... Guides
-
- What are you waiting for? Thank Him!

Spontaneous Prayer - Blessings

- “In everything, give thanks.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- “Always [give] thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 5:20
- Beautiful sunrise or sunset? Give thanks!
- Parking spot close to the door when freezing outside? Give Thanks! (I like riding with Dana. She says thank-you. Want to bet she gets some more? I get to walk.)
- Free piece of pie from Brownie’s? Twice in one week? Give thanks!
- Even Lice? Give thanks! Just ask Corrie Ten Boom (Author of The Hiding Place.)

Spontaneous Prayer - Burdens

- Cancer or other health-related issue?
- Divorce?
- Financial
- School?
- Unemployment?

Spontaneous Prayer - Burdens

- Burdens can CRUSH a person's Spirit
- "Carry one another's burdens; in this way you fulfill the law of Christ"
Galatians 6:2
- Compare "Law of Christ" with "Law of Moses"
- Ever notice that when 2 people carry something it weighs half as much?
With 3 people, it is a third as much?
- With God, it is hardly noticeable!

Spontaneous Prayer - Crisis

- Jumbo-sized burdens
- Each one of us will face times of crisis
- Life-changing
 - Husband died 30 days before retirement, he & wife building their dream home, daughter pregnant
 - Local orthodontist tragically died (broke her neck when fell down the stairs) leaving 2 teen-age boys

Spontaneous Prayer - Crisis

Psalm 50:15

- Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.”
- Cry out to Him!

Spontaneous Prayer - Crisis

- But remember, we don't always see what God sees!
- Video #1
<https://youtu.be/vJG698U2Mvo>
- Video #2
https://youtu.be/IGQmdoK_ZfY

Spontaneous Prayer - Worries

- Give your worries to God
- No “claw marks” allowed
- “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”
1 Peter 5:7

Spontaneous Prayer - Worries

- Attack with Prayer
- “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

Spontaneous Prayer – Worries

- Not your Circus. Not your monkeys.
- “If you don’t know what to do, do what is in front of you.”
Author Unknown
- “If you don’t know what to do, pray now!”
Reece’s modified version

Spontaneous Prayer - Sin

- Tempted [pre-sin]? Pray!
- Jesus told His disciples to pray when tempted. God won't allow more than you can handle.
- Sinned [post-sin]? Pray!
- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Spontaneous Prayers – Topics

Spontaneous Prayers – Topics

- Anything
- Everything

Spontaneous Prayer

A Sacred Habit

Continue to Pray for Us!



- Clint Hill
- Chris Mayfield
- Reece Morrel Jr.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we do want prayer to be our first response to every situation that occurs in our life. Instead of worrying, instead of complaining, instead of taking credit, instead of celebrating without You, teach us to come to You before going anywhere or to anyone else. What a comfort to know we can never be in a place that You're not already there to hear us and help us. We intend to be that that place more often ourselves. In the name of Jesus, amen.