

## **“What happens when we don’t pray?”**

**Archbishop Wayne R. Felton**

### **KEYNOTE SCRIPTURE:**

1 Thessalonians 5, “17 Pray without ceasing.”

### **Scripture Based Spiritual Laws About Prayer**

By faith we grasp the will of GOD but by prayer we engage the will we’ve grasped.

- When we don’t pray, we deceive ourselves into thinking we’re in GOD and GOD is with us

In trials the LORD tests the strength of our faith but by prayer we engage GOD’s strength through trials.

- When we don’t pray, we cannot stand firm and strong in the faith we confess

By faith we follow the voice and instructions of GOD but by prayer we remain in tune with what He’s saying and how He’s leading.

- When we don’t pray, we will not discern GOD’s leading and instructions and will tend to weigh many influences and yet be confused

The Scriptures constantly command us to pray at all times and the purpose for doing so:

- Ephesians 6, “18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel”
- Colossians 1, “3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you”
- Colossians 4, “2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds”
- Acts 1, “14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”
- Acts 12, “5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”
- 2 Corinthians 1, “11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”

### **WHAT DOES PRAYER DO FOR AND IN US?**

Romans 8, “26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

NLT says, “26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.”

1. Prayer is divine help within us, Grace from GOD, to help us remain steadfastly in communion with GOD.
2. Prayer helps us to know what GOD desires for our lives when we’re too weak, wounded, or weary in our journey.
3. Prayer aligns our life with the will of GOD while strengthening us to as we endure the trials associated with walking after the Spirit.

Therefore, it is Biblically founded to say that:

- Prayer works within to strengthen us to do GOD’s will
- Prayer takes over us to keep our soul afresh with a vision of GOD
- Prayers works for us when we’re too weak to do for ourselves

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON’T PRAY?**

2 Chronicles 16:1-12

In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. **2** Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the Lord and of the king’s house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, **3** There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. **4** And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. **5** And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. **6** Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah. **7** And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. **8** Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thine hand. **9** For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. **10** Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time. **11** And, behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. **12** And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T PRAY?**

- We lose an AWE of GOD
- We lack right perspective
- We miss GOD's timing
- We forfeit God's power
- We retard our Spiritual progress

### **HOW CAN WE AVOID THE DANGER OF NOT PRAYING?**

- Resolve to Pray always, daily, and fervently in the Holy Ghost
- Establish Spiritual goals according to GOD's Word that only He (through prayer) can get you to
- Remain filled with the Holy Spirit
- Be around praying people who can hold you accountable