



Why Pray

1 of 4
Kevin Withem

August ??, 2020

Peter Kreeft, in his book, "Prayer for Beginners," wrote the following:

"Some say that prayer, and "the spiritual life," or "the inner life," or the soul's private love affair with God, is an unaffordable luxury today, or an irresponsible withdrawal from the pressing public problems of our poor, hurting world. I say just the opposite: that nothing, nothing is more relevant and responsible..."

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

James 4:2 ^{NKJV} *You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*

Why Pray? - Benefits of prayer:

We gain spiritual _____.

Ephesians 3:16 ^{NKJV} *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*

Colossians 1:11 ^{NKJV} *strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;*

In these two passages, Paul said God has "glorious _____" out of which he can strengthen you with "power."

And he has "glorious _____" from which that power comes. He is not limited, as we are limited.

Question: What is God calling you to do or be, or what spiritually in your life is overwhelming you? _____

Philippians 4:13 NIV - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



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Daily Devotionals or Bible Study

August 05, 2020

1. How have the stressful and challenging times we're in impacted you spiritually? What would you recommend to someone as ways to use the present time to grow closer and more dependent on God?
2. If you someone asked you why prayer is critical to our lives, how would you answer them? If prayer has not been an integral part of your Christian life and someone asked, "why?", how would you respond?
3. Peter Kreeft, in his book, "Prayer for Beginners," wrote: "Some say that prayer, and "the spiritual life," or "the inner life...is an unaffordable luxury today, or an irresponsible withdrawal from the pressing public problems of our poor, hurting world. I say just the opposite: that nothing, nothing is more relevant and responsible;..." (page 14). Why might someone suggest that prayer is an "unaffordable luxury" or irresponsible withdrawal from the pressing public problems of our poor hurting world?" What case would you make that it is "more relevant and a very "responsible" thing to do?
4. What are areas in your spiritual life where you want to be obedient to God, or be used by God, but you find yourself overwhelmed? Read Ephesians 3:16 and Colossians 3:11, and summarize or put in your own words the way Paul describes the power and strength available to each believer. What impacts you most in these verses?
5. How would your life be different if you became more committed to prayer than you presently are, starting today? QUESTIONS & EXERCISES For Daily Devotionals or Bible Study Group