

# Why Pray?

By Red Miller

If God already knows our needs, why is it necessary for the Christian to pray? That question and others will be answered in the six week prayer study coming in September/October.

## Why study prayer?

The Divine invitation to pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus Christ is the single most mentioned commandment in all recorded scripture and prayer is the most basic form of communicating with God. God has called us into a relationship with him. Our practice of prayer then, should be worth doing all we can to enhance it.

## When should we pray?

Personal Prayer: Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. Mark 1:35-36. It's easy to be so caught up in the busyness of

life that we neglect times of solitude, individual worship, and prayer. But It is vitally important to seek the Lord before our busy schedules takes over our thoughts. We need to find a quiet place where we can withdraw from the noise and demands so we can focus on God.

## Small Groups

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20 Jesus looked ahead to a new day when he would be present with his followers not in body, but through his Holy Spirit. In the body of believers (the church), the sincere agreement of two or three people in prayer is powerful because Christ's Holy Spirit is with them. Two or more believers, filled with the Holy Spirit, will pray according to God's will, not their own; thus, their requests will be granted.

## Corporate Prayer

After Christ was taken up into heaven, the Apostles and other disciples immediately returned to Jerusalem and had a prayer meeting. Jesus had said they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days, so they waited and prayed. Acts 1:12-14. The early Church often gathered to pray in mass. Prayer was a priority and a large part of their worship.

## Pray constantly

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thesalonians 5:16-20. In practice, how can this be carried out? After all, in the space of one day in which we think of God and put into words our sentiments, we also wash, eat, drive a car, do office or kitchen work, play with our friends, watch the television and sleep. How then can we pray always? A life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of God and in communion with him. The main idea is that the person who "prays always without becoming weary" is one whose whole day is lived in the presence of God.

*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philip. 1:4*