

The Necessity of Prayer
2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, Daniel 10:1-14

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I. The power of prayer. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

1. ***“That the _____ of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified.”***
2. ***“And that we may be _____ from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.”***

In this context, **strongholds** are incorrect thoughts and perceptions _____ the true knowledge of God and the nature of God.

II. The reality of prayer. Daniel 10:1-3

“In Christendom, we need to be careful and always ask the question, ‘Why do we do what we do!’ So, why do we sing songs, why do we gather in Church, and why do we _____?” (Farrar) **James 5:16-18**

- While praying, since we are speaking with Almighty God, prayer should move us and _____ our faith in Him!

III. The Lord answers prayers. Daniel 10:4-9

During prayer, we can be close to the Lord’s presence and power but still miss the message due to a lack of spiritual _____ or preparation.

- Daniel was all alone, and the meeting with this messenger had a tremendous impact on him. The Lord answers _____ of our prayers with either a yes, no, or wait answer.

IV. Pray and don’t lose heart. Daniel 10:10-14

The Prince of Persia was an evil angelic being, also known as one of the _____ angels. Notice he opposed the Word of God, making it to Daniel, and stood against the angelic messenger. **Colossians 1:16**

- *How much assistance or insight from angels do we miss when we lack _____ in prayer?* **Hebrews 1:14**

V. Conclusion.

- _____.
- _____.

The word Paul used in **1 Timothy 2:1**, **“prayers,”** is actually interpreted as a reverent, sacred act of _____.

- _____.
- Giving of _____. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-19**

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week’s sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. *What is your motivation for praying? How has your motivation changed over the years? Why?*
2. The sermon taught that *“Prayer is more than just a function in Christianity.”* What is the difference between seeking the *“plans”* God may have for us and simply seeking Him? Can you think of a time in your life when you made seeking your own *“plans”* your priority? Can you think of a time when God revealed his plans for you after you earnestly sought Him?
Proverbs 3:5-6
3. *Among Christians today, how widespread is prayerlessness — and what does that reveal about our spiritual health?*
4. *How important is it to have spiritual perception and expectations when we pray?*
2 Kings 6:15-17, Acts 22:9, James 1:6, Mark 11:24
5. In passages like **James 4:3**, we are told there’s a type of prayer that doesn’t work, an idol-centered prayer, asking for something with wrong motives. *Can you explain this? What type of prayer doesn’t work?*
6. *What is the importance of persistence in prayer?*
Luke 18:1-8, Philippians 4:6-8
7. Discuss the importance of a Christian realizing our battles are fought and won in prayer.
Deuteronomy 20:1-4, 1 Samuel 17:47, Ephesians 6:11-18, 2 Corinthians 10:4
8. Discuss the four types of prayer in the conclusion section of the sermon notes.