

Stonecrest Community Church
Warren, NJ
January 1, 2012

Why Pray?

“If we call upon the Lord, He has promised in His Word to answer, to bring the unsaved to Himself, to pour out His Spirit among us. If we don't call upon the Lord, He has promised nothing-- nothing at all. It's as simple as that. Prayer is the engine that will drive the church.”

(Jim Cymbala, Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire.)

The success of the church depends upon prayer. We define “success” in the church as: Finding out what is on the heart of Jesus and then doing it, when and how He says to.

(Steve Smith—Australian Church Consultant)

Scripture Tells us Why We Should Pray:

- Because it is right before God (**Luke 18:1**)
- Because it is commanded by God (**I Thes 5:17**)
- Because it is sinful to neglect prayer (**I Samuel 12:23**)
- Because neglect of it grieves God (**Isaiah 43:21-22; 64:6-7**)
- Because it is the medium through which God bestows blessing (**Mt. 7:11; Daniel 9:3**)
- Because it is essential to victory over the forces of evil (**Ephesians 6:12-18**)
- Because of the obligation imposed by Christ's example (**Hebrews 5:7; Mark 1:35**)
- Because of the emphasis on it in the early church (**Acts 6:4; 12:5; Rom 1:9-10; Col 1:9**)

God inspired the prophet Isaiah to make it clear to His people that “**My house will be called a house of prayer.**” (**Is. 56:7**)

Jesus confirmed the same priority in **Mark 11:17**, “**My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.**”

When we call a place a “*house of*” something, we rightly expect that “*something*” to be the predominant practice of that establishment, e.g. The Fish House, The Taco House, The Coffee House, etc.

“God doesn't want our service and activity apart from a relationship with Him, and in fact, He will not accept them without it.” (John Franklin, Leader of a House of Prayer)

Oswald Chambers defines “prayer” as: coming into perfect fellowship and oneness with God.”

Because a house is “a dwelling place”, a house of prayer then is “a dwelling place for God--- a place where we abide in perfect communion and intimacy with Him. Out of communion with Him will come strategies, plans, and power to accomplish the mission of the church.