



## The Priority of Prayer

Those who have made the greatest impact for God's kingdom have at least one trait in common with Jesus: they were men and women of prayer.

Talking to God helps us use time wisely because it . . .

1. **Invites God into our activity:** If we ask, the Father will help us use time well (Prov. 3:5-6).
2. **Produces confidence:** When we have clear guidance from God, we can move ahead boldly and quickly.
3. **Prevents distractions:** Each morning, ask God what you are supposed to accomplish and request that He help you avoid needless activities.
4. **Protects us from discouragement:** Talking to the Lord reminds us of His perspective. How can we be discouraged if our loving heavenly Father is in complete control and has our best interests in mind?
5. **Opens doors of opportunity:** Paul asked the Colossians to pray that "God will open up to us a door for the word" (Col. 4:3). Prayer creates opportunities where none existed before.
6. **Helps us discern between busyness and fruitfulness:** Don't say yes to every opportunity: prayerfully consider which ones God has ordained for you to pursue.

How often do you spend focused solitary time in conversation with your heavenly Father? I hope that you will make prayer a priority. Every morning, commit your day to Him. Ask for His guidance to help you avoid distractions, and listen for His voice. You will be amazed at how effective and fruitful you can be for His kingdom.

**Irrational:** inconsistent with reality, lacking reason

### ▶ Life has certain undeniable **TRUTHS**

Truth haunts us

Questions Persist

Justice Matters

Made for Community

We are spiritual beings

Love Hurts

Death is REAL

### ▶ Life has a **TRANSCENDENT** meaning

*"Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" 1 Cor 1:24*

### ▶ **GRACE** is the last thing I expected from God

Jews demand **SIGN**

Christ Crucified - **Grace**

Greeks look for **WISDOM**

## Practical Theology

**Purpose:** *"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." C. S. Lewis*

**Path** *"I believe in God like I believe in the sun, not because I can see it, but because of it all things are seen." CS Lewis*

**Peace** *"God is, and all is well." -- John Greenleaf Whittier*

# NEW BEGINNINGS

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”[Isaiah 29:14]

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”[Jeremiah 9:24]

## Give God...

The First Day of Every Week

The First Part of Every Day

The First Portion of My Income

The First Consideration in Every Decision