

Series: Rooted: A Lifestyle in Radical Dependence

Sermon: Rooted in Prayer

Scripture: Various

Teacher: Jeff Norris

Dates: September 28/29, 2019

Biblical Overview: (Note: there are seemingly countless examples and commissions of prayer in the OT, but for this message, Jeff just looked at a number of places in the NT as we observe how the early church was centered on prayer) ...

"All these with one accord were **devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and the brothers." Acts 1:14

"And they **devoted themselves** to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the **prayers**." Acts 2:42

"When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they had heard it, **they lifted their voices together to God...And when they had prayed**, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." Acts 4:23-24, 31

"But we will **devote ourselves to prayer** and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4

"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' **Then after fasting and praying** they laid hands on them and sent them off." Acts 13:2-3

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, **be constant in prayer**." Romans 12:12

"...**praying at all times** in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, **making supplication** for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

"Do not be anxious about anything, but **in everything, with prayer and petition**, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

"**Continue steadfastly in prayer**, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2

"Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Historical Overview:

Not enough time to go into detail, but let me just quickly highlight how God has historically birthed renewal and awakening over and over again from the trenches of prayer...

First Great Awakening (Europe) - birthed out of a round-the-clock prayer meeting for the reviving and spread of the church throughout Europe [Started with a Moravian community called Herrnhut in modern day Germany - 1727]

First Great Awakening (America) - birthed out of Jonathan Edwards' call to a "concert of prayer" in the 1730's-40's

Second Great Awakening - birthed out of a movement of prayer in the early 1800's and carried for several decades

The Modern Mission Movement - birthed out of 5 college students who gathered to pray under a haystack (1806)

The Businessman's Revival - birthed out of a weekly prayer meeting over lunch in a local church (1857-59)

The Hebrides Revival - birthed out of 7 men and 2 women who committed to pray twice a week in a barn (1949)

Gospel Overview:

Jesus prayed.

Jesus sacrificed.

Jesus intercedes.

Prayer is essential and critical in helping us:

1. See God Rightly
2. See Ourselves Rightly
3. See Others and Our Circumstances Rightly

Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change—the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things that He has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life. We must learn to pray. We have to. - Tim Keller

A Call to Action:

- 24/7 prayer - Starting Monday 9/30 - go to the app and sign up for a time slot to pray.
 - Prayer Room
 - Under the main staircase
- Tuesday night prayer - The next 6 Tuesday's, 6:30-7:30pm in the Ministry Center - Childcare provided (Must register)
- Go to www.perimeter.org/prayer - will find more details on how you can participate in this prayer movement
 - Daily Devotionals
 - Journey Group Supplement
- Prayer Cards - time capsule

If all regenerate church members in Western Christendom were to intercede daily simply for the most obvious spiritual concerns visible in their homes, their workplaces, their local churches and denominations, their nations, and the world and the total mission of the body of Christ within it, the transformation which would result would be incalculable. Not only would God certainly change those situations in response to prayer—we have Christ's word that if we ask in his name He will do more than we ask or think—but the church's comprehension of its task would attain an unprecedented sharpness of focus. Perhaps much of our prayer now should simply be for God to pour out such a spirit of prayer and supplication in the hearts of His people. - Richard Lovelace, Dynamics of Spiritual Life

Jeff's prayer for us as a church:

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.