

The Value of a Praying Pastor

I. *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.* (Matt. 6:6)

1. Take notice that in this passage Jesus did not say “*if you pray.*” His statement was “*when you pray.*” This tells us that prayer is not an option, but is something that the Lord expects us to do.
2. The wonderful thing about prayer is that, if done correctly, it will be rewarded in an open, undeniable and tangible way. Prayer is not a pious action that is done only for the purpose of appeasing our conscience and appearing spiritual to others.
3. True prayer brings tangible results. Hence the value of prayer in general. We can petition God and get exactly what we are asking for if we are in a right relationship with Him (Matt. 7:7-11; 1 John 3:22; Isa. 59:1-2).

II. Spiritual leaders who do NOT prayer are actually in sin:

1. *Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way:* (1 Sam. 12:23)
2. It is the business of a minister to train believers up to a life of prayer; but how can a leader do this if he himself understands little the art of conversing with God and of receiving from the Holy Spirit, every day, out of heaven, abundant grace for himself and for his work? A minister cannot lead a congregation higher than he is himself. He cannot with enthusiasm point out a way, or explain a work, in which he is not himself walking or living. (The Life of Prayer by Andrew Murray)
3. Men must do God's work in God's way, and to God's glory, and prayer is a necessity to its successful accomplishment. The thing far above all other things in the equipment of the preacher is prayer. Before everything else, he must be a man who makes a specialty of prayer. A prayerless preacher is a misnomer. He has either missed his calling, or has grievously failed God who called him into the ministry. (The Weapon of Prayer by E. M. Bounds)
4. If you as ministers are not very prayerful you are to be pitied. If you become lax in sacred devotion, not only will you need to be pitied but your people also, and the day cometh in which you will be ashamed and confounded. (C. H. Spurgeon as quoted by E. M. Bounds in "The Weapon of Prayer")
5. Even when our ministers are orthodox--as thank God so very many are!--they are oftentimes not men of prayer. How many modern ministers know what it is to wrestle in prayer, to spend a good share of a night in prayer? I do not know how many, but I do know that many do not. (How To Pray By R. A. Torrey)

III. The results accrued from a lack of Prayer

1. *And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.*

Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD. (Ezek. 22:30, 31)

2. A man of God who does not pray is a danger to the people that God has given him charge over. One of the main qualities one should look for in a church is NOT size, music, or programs. First look to see if the pastor and leaders are men and women of prayer.

IV. The positive value of a praying pastor

1. Exodus 32:1-14; Num. 12:9-14; 16:41-50; Deut. 9:23-29
2. We have looked at some of the negative aspects of a non-praying pastor. However, seeing the negatives often helps us to have a greater appreciation for the POSITIVE. In this case, one should appreciate the fact that they have a pastor who prays.
3. Those who are in a fellowship where the pastor is a praying man can feel confident and protected and rest assure that they are part of an assembly that will progress.
4. God listens to righteous obedient men who pray and gives them exactly what they are asking for because they will never ask God for something that is not in accordance with holiness.