

The Poison of a Prayerless Life

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. Prayer is the arsenal for the Kingdom of God coming to earth.
2. Prayer is so much more than a devotional tool.
3. Prayer is your entrance into God's presence.
4. Prayer is the antidote for out-of-control emotions.
5. Prayer releases God's will in any situation.
6. Prayer should be a lifestyle for God's purposes not just crutch for a problematic life.

SCRIPTURE READING: Daniel 6

- Daniel had great favor with King Darius.
- The other high officials were jealous of Daniel.
- The high officials sought for a way to get rid of Daniel.
- No one could find fault in Daniel because he had an excellent spirit.
- The high officials convinced King Darius to sign a decree making it illegal to call out to any other God. The decree would last for a period of 30 days.
- If anyone violated this new law, they would be thrown into the lions' den.
- After the decree was issued, Daniel went to his room, opened the window, and prayed as usual. Daniel refuses to cease his prayer life though death was certain.
- The high officials reported Daniel's disregard of the new law to King Darius.
- The king was grieved and sought for a way to not punish Daniel.
- The law could not be changed and Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.
- The king was convinced that Daniel's God would deliver him.
- The next morning the king went to the lions' den and Daniel was alive.
- His accusers and their families were then thrown into the lions' den they were attacked and killed before they ever reached the bottom of the pit.
- King Darius decreed that Daniel's God should be honored and recognized.

What do think Daniel wasn't willing to cease praying for 30 days?

Why would Daniel risk his life to be seen praying?

Why didn't Daniel just pray in secret? Why did he have to make his prayer public?

Would you risk your life, your family, your spouse, just to be able to pray?

What has to change in our view of prayer if we are going to be willing to die for it?

Why is 'daily prayer' so important to the life of a believer?

Describe your prayer life. Is it easy for you? Are you consistent?

Why do you pray?

PRAYER IS THE GREATEST ANTIDOTE FOR EMOTIONAL CHAOS

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:36 – 46

- Jesus prayed, “not My will but Yours be done”
- The spirit is often willing but the flesh is weak.
- Jesus was facing His greatest emotional crisis - crucifixion.
- Yet, at His greatest crisis He didn't run - He prayed.
- Prayer is the foundation for an emotionally stable life.
- Prayer keeps emotions in check.
- Prayer helps align your emotions with the will of God
- You can take fear and frustration to the Father, Jesus did.
- Prayer shifts things for you - it shifts your emotions and can even shift your environment.
- Something supernatural happens to your emotions when you step into the presence of God and pray.
- Prayer is not magic it's for all who take the time to pray.

Why is prayer often a 'back door' tactic? Meaning, it is the last response for the emotional chaos we may find ourselves facing.

How do you see prayer impacting your emotions?

When you're facing an emotionally chaotic moment what is your usual "go to" response?

How does aligning yourself to God's will help calm your emotions?

How does prayer shift the environment that surrounds you?