

## **INTRODUCTION: MAKING YOUR LIFE A PRAYER**

So what comes to mind when you hear the word “prayer”? Usually, many people think about someone in a nice suit or dress, kneeling next to a pew, head bowed, eyes closed, and hands clasped together. That’s about as exciting as watching grass grow. The picture that comes to mind could be substituted with a statue for all we care. There’s not much life in that mental picture, only what years of Sunday school and Christian pictures have depicted and engraved into our minds.

Prayer is more than that. It’s communication with the Almighty God. It’s a cry from our hearts to the loving God. It’s a celebration of our spirit to the Lamb of God. It’s those tears from the deep sadness when we seek the Great Comforter. It’s that quick arrow in times of need to the God who provides. It’s the longing to know more and to seek the face of the glory of God. Prayer is our testament to the living God.

Most people, when asked, say they do pray; but I’m not interested in what you say before your meals, before you go to bed, or when you really, really need that one thing to improve your life. No, I’m more interested in why the early Christian church prayed so much. I’m interested in what drove them to wear out the floors with their knees when they prayed everyday. I’m captivated by how they prayed and the fervor they put into prayer. The dedication of strong men and women of God impress me with their insistence (what many of them deemed a necessity) to pray for many hours of the day. I seek to understand the ingredients of what it takes for God to answer prayers. And above all, I want to see God’s power from His body’s faithful prayer.

Within this series of lessons, I hope that the many insights gathered from Christian authors and wise pastors present a clearer picture on what prayer is. That you too see what prayer is and how you can become a better prayer warrior. I hope that the series proves to be a shining light that helps you continually grow in your walk with Christ. All glory and honor be unto our Lord. May God bless you with a devoted life of prayer!