

# Living in Prayer, Walking in Purpose

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## **Mark 1:35-39 NIV**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary** place, where he prayed. [36] Simon and his companions went to look for him, [37] and when they found him, they exclaimed: "**Everyone** is looking for you!"

[38] Jesus replied, "Let us go **somewhere else**--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." [39] So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Jesus found a quiet place of prayer.

In this passage, Jesus prays early in the morning. He makes the time to get out of bed, and go be with His Father God. Often the distractions of a day can keep us from making the time to spend with Father God, so a great time to spend with Him is in the morning... before the distractions (like work and school) start.

In other passages Jesus prays at night (like in the Garden of Gethsemane). The important thing is that Jesus made time for prayer. No matter how busy He was Jesus made time for prayer.

Sometimes we get "to busy to pray". I am guilty of it too. I get caught up in so many things, even good things - like ministry, that I fail to spend time with the God I'm preaching about. HELLO... I see a problem there... and it's something I'm fighting... I am fighting to make more time with God, because I know that without Him I'm nothing. My ministry will be weak... my affect on others nil', and my relationship with God will dissolve. I need to be in His presence, more than anything else!!!

I don't imagine that any of us here are busier than Jesus. He had entire villages coming to Him seeking healing and deliverance. He had multitudes coming to Him looking for answers. He had blind men yelling at Him from the side of the street, and someone even being let down through a rooftop to see Him, in the middle of His preaching a message. He was a busy guy!!! But Jesus, the Son of God, was also a man, and He knew that He needed to spend time with His Father... **how much more do we?!?**

See Vs. 5 "solitary" Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary** place, where he prayed.

Jesus found a quiet place, a solitary place. It's important for us to do the same. When you plan on spending time in prayer... find the least distracting place you can... it helps to keep your focus on Him. (ex. **Q: Do you think it's a good idea to have your prayer time with God while your watching TV???** NO... you won't be able to focus. **Q: Do you think it's a good idea to go in your bedroom and close your door, turn on some worship music and pray???** YES... that atmosphere is much better for focusing on God **Q: Is it a good idea to spend your prayer time while your checking your myspace???** NO... again... too distracting **Q: Is it a good idea to go for a walk and talk to God while you walk???** For me yes... I like to walk and talk to God... that may or may not work for you... maybe walking is too distracting... or your to shy to pray while your walking cause somebody might see you and think your crazy... Figure out what works for you, and do it... spend time with God in the least distracting atmosphere you can. Your time with God should be purposefully designed to focus upon Him.

**1. I need to find a quiet place of prayer.**

**Q: How many of us need to find a quiet place of prayer???**  
 ...every hand should be up... because we all do

Jesus was strengthened to follow God's purpose in prayer.

## **2. God's purpose and strength to fulfill that purpose is found in prayer.**

If we don't spend time with God... we won't know what He expects of us. If we do by chance figure out what He wants from us, we won't have the strength to do it, unless we are being re-charged regularly in prayer. **Our lives will be useless for the Kingdom of God, unless we grab hold of our purpose, by getting close to our Creator.** Unless we know God, it will be impossible for us to know His will.

***"Aimless living and prayerlessness go hand in hand."***

–*E.M. Bounds* ("Essentials of Prayer." Whitaker House. 1994.)

That is SO true... our lives will be aimless, if we are prayerless. We won't know God, and we won't know His will.

When we do discover God's will through prayer, it is important that we continue to live in prayer, so we have the ability to fulfill His will... the strength to do it.

### **Isaiah 40:31 NASB**

**Yet those who wait for the Lord**

**Will gain new strength;**

They will mount up with wings like eagles,

They will run and not get tired,

They will walk and not become weary.

Jesus got the strength of God in prayer, so He could follow through with His purpose.

[37]... when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

[38] Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."  
Jesus followed God's plan, and wasn't sidetracked.

It would have been easy to go minister to those people again, because they already liked Him... in fact the whole town was seeking after Him, but Jesus knew God's purpose for Him was to move on. Jesus knew God's purpose and was strengthened to do it in prayer.

### **3. I can walk in God's plan, and avoid being sidetracked, if I live a life of prayer.**

*"All that true prayer seeks is God Himself, for with Him we get all we need. Prayer is simply "the turning of the soul to God." David describes it as the lifting up of the living soul to the living God. "Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul" (Psalm 25:1). What a beautiful description of prayer that is! When we desire the Lord Jesus to behold our souls, we also desire that the beauty of holiness may be upon us. **When we lift up our souls to God in prayer it gives God an opportunity to do what He will in us and with us.** It is putting ourselves at God's disposal. God is always on our side, but we are not always on His side." –"The Kneeling Christian" (1986. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan.)*

Often, when we think of prayer, we think of all of the things that we need. We pray, only when we have a desperate need, and we know no other way to meet that need. That is a bad definition of prayer. It is true that we should seek God with needs that we have, but we CANNOT limit our prayer to only presenting our "wish-lists" to God. Prayer is much more than just rubbing a magic lamp, and out pops Genie-God and we tell Him our three wishes. He is not a Genie... and we better not pretend He is.

Prayer is spending time in the presence of God. Prayer is talking to God, and waiting on God. Prayer is when we hang out with God, and let Him do what He wants in our lives. *"When we lift up our souls to God in prayer it gives God an opportunity to do what He will in us and with us."* -Kneeling Christian (above)

God wants what is best for our lives, but He also gave us a free will, so it's important for us to always line our will up with His will. We do that in prayer... and it is a whole lot easier to make the right choices, and follow God's plan throughout our life, when our life is consistently devoted to God in prayer.

We can live a life of victory as a Christian, if we will make the effort to live a life of prayer.

We can only know Him if we spend time with Him.  
And how can we be true Christians unless we know God?