



# VII

## 7 MARKS of a DISCIPLE

# DEVELOPING A PRAYING HEART

MATTHEW 6:5-8

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**Introduction:** Last time we discovered that the first mark of a disciple is a transformed heart that is the foundation of a changed life. But what does a transformed heart actually look like? Just as our physical heart is comprised of various chambers, so is our spiritual heart. Today we are going to look at one of those primary components of a truly transformed heart: a praying heart.

## I. Jesus' Emphasis On Prayer

### A. By Example (Mark 1:35)

Mark 1:35 “And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there.”

### B. By Exhortation (Luke 18:1-8)

Luke 18:1-5 <sup>1</sup> “Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, <sup>2</sup> saying, there was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God, and did not respect man. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ <sup>4</sup> And for a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out.’”

Luke 18:6-7 <sup>6</sup> “And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge said; <sup>7</sup> now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?’”



## II. Why Pray?

### A. Prayer Develops Our Intimacy With God

### B. Prayer Unleashes the Power of God (James 4:2; Revelation 8:4-6)

James 4:2b “You do not have because you do not ask.”

Revelation 8:4-6 <sup>4</sup> “And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel’s hand. <sup>5</sup> And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. <sup>6</sup> And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.”

### C. Prayer Protects Us With the Peace of God (Philippians 4:6-7)

Philippians 4:6-7 <sup>6</sup> “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

### D. Prayer Aligns Our Will With God’s Will (Luke 22:42)

Luke 22:42 “Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done.”



### III. Developing A Praying Heart

#### A. Don't Complicate Prayer (Matthew 6:7)

Matthew 6:7 “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.”

#### B. Use a Pen and a Pad to Enhance Your Prayer Life (Philippians 4:6)

Philippians 4:6 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

#### C. Begin and End Your Day With Prayer (Psalm 5:3-4; Psalm 4:4-5)

Psalm 5:3-4 <sup>3</sup> “In the morning, O Lord, Thou wilt hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to Thee and eagerly watch. <sup>4</sup> For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with Thee.”

Psalm 4:4-5 <sup>4</sup> “Tremble, and do not sin; meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. <sup>5</sup> Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and trust in the Lord.”

#### D. Redeem Those Random Moments

Conclusion