

“Calling People Higher”

Part 1: Progress through Prayer

We grow through making and keeping commitments.



Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.—Colossians 4:2
(NIV)

- *calling people higher*



What is involved in being a praying person and a praying church:

- *calling people higher*



When should I pray?



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- When I don't feel like it.

*Before daybreak the next morning,
Jesus got up and went out to an isolated
place to pray.—Mark 1:35 (NLT)*

- *calling people higher*



➤ When I am physically tired.

“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”—

Matthew 26:41 (NLT)

• *calling people higher*



➤ When I don't know what to say.

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.—Romans 8:26-27 (NLT)

• *calling people higher*



- When I want to give up.

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.—Luke 18:1 (NLT)

- *calling people higher*



- When I am tempted to worry.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.—Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

- *calling people higher*



How should I pray?



- *calling people higher*

➤ With simplicity.

*“When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long. Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him.”—
Matthew 6:7-8 (GNT)*

• *calling people higher*



➤ With fasting.

So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer.—Ezra 8:23 (NLT)

• *calling people higher*



➤ With boldness.

*In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.—
Ephesians 3:12 (CEB)*

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”—John 15:7 (NIV)

• *calling people higher*



➤ With intentionality.

As often as possible Jesus withdrew to out-of-the-way places for prayer.—Luke 5:16 (MSG)

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.—Luke 6:12 (NIV)

• *calling people higher*



The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean these people who *take* time and *pray*. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important. Very important, and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer.—S. D. Gordon in *Quiet Talks on Prayer*, 1904, p. 12

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➤ With continuous conversation.

Never stop praying.—1 Thessalonians

5:17 (NLT)

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“I have so fixed the habit in my mind that I never raise a glass of water to my lips without asking God’s blessing, never seal a letter without putting a word of prayer under the seal, never take a letter from the post without a brief sending of my thoughts heavenward, never change my classes in the lecture-room without a minute’s petition for the cadets who go out and for those who come in.”—Stonewall Jackson

- *calling people higher*



What should I pray?



- *calling people higher*

- For the known needs of other believers.

So admit to one another that you have sinned. Pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen.—James 5:16 (NIV)

- *calling people higher*



- For effective outreach to the lost.

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ....—

Colossians 4:3 (NIV)

- *calling people higher*



- For the civil and spiritual leadership of the nation and the church.

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.—1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)

- *calling people higher*



- For the civil and spiritual leadership of the nation and the church.

Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit.—Romans 15:30 (NLT)

- *calling people higher*



➤ For the spiritual growth of the church.

...Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will.... And we pray this in order that you may...please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power....–Colossians 1:9-11 (NIV)

• *calling people higher*



Why should I pray?



- Prayer develops my relationship with God.
- Prayer strengthens my faith.
- Prayer aligns my will with God's will; my heart with God's heart.
- Prayer opens the door for God's blessing.

• *calling people higher*