

**PRAYING FOR A BETTER YEAR**  
*Pastor Rick Reager – January 17, 2021*

**I. WHY IS PRAYER SO IMPORTANT?**

**1. PRAYER IS \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>6</sup> Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7*

*“<sup>16</sup> Always be joyful. <sup>17</sup> Never stop praying. <sup>18</sup> Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

**2. PRAYER WAS \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>16</sup> Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.” Luke 5:16*

**3. PRAYER IS ONE IMPORTANT WAY I \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” John 15:4-7*

**4. PRAYER IS ONE WAY I PROVE & GROW MY \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>6</sup> So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” Hebrews 11:6*

*“He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (NKJV)*

**5. PRAYER IS ONE WAY I PROVE & GROW MY \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, obey my commandments.” John 14:15*

*“<sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.*

*<sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Matthew 6:20-21*

**6. PRAYER IS ONE WAY I \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>8</sup> The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” Psalm 32:8*

*“<sup>5</sup> If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.” James 1:5*

**7. PRAYER IS ONE WAY I BUILD & MAINTAIN \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>2</sup> Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I pray to no one but you.” Psalm 5:2*

*“<sup>6</sup> God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. <sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God.” James 4:6-7*

**8. I MAY NOT GET WHAT I WANT/NEED \_\_\_\_\_**

*“<sup>2</sup> Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it.” James 4:2*

## II. HOW CAN I BUILD A RICH & CONSISTENT PRAYER LIFE?

### 1. CREATE A \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>16</sup> But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer." Luke 5:16*

**KEY: FIND A PLACE WHERE I CAN HAVE \_\_\_\_\_**

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ **MY DAILY PRAYER TIME**

*"<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do." Ephesians 5:15-17*

### 3. MAINTAIN A \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHY?

#### i. It Helps Me \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>46</sup> Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. <sup>47</sup> When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' <sup>48</sup> 'Be quiet!' many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' <sup>49</sup> When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, 'Tell him to come here.' So they called the blind man. 'Cheer up,' they said. 'Come on, he's calling you!' <sup>50</sup> Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> 'What do you want me to do for you?' Jesus asked. 'My rabbi', the blind man said, 'I want to see!' <sup>52</sup> And Jesus said to him, 'Go, for your faith has healed you.' Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road." Mark 10:46-52*

#### ii. It Helps \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>1</sup> I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. <sup>2</sup> Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. " 1 Timothy 2:1-4*

#### iii. It Helps Me \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>4</sup> But Jesus told him, 'No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4*

#### iv. It Helps \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>9</sup> Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me." Isaiah 46:9*

### 4. LEARN TO \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." Ephesians 6:18*

**KEY: THIS IS ALL ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_**

### 5. MAKE \_\_\_\_\_ **A PART OF MY DAILY PRAYER LIFE**

*"<sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. <sup>22</sup> And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him." 1 John 3:21-22*

*"<sup>9</sup> But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. 1 John 1:9*

## 6. DON'T SIMPLY PRAY FOR MY NEEDS, BUT \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>1</sup>I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. <sup>2</sup>Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is good and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4*

### **KEY: FOCUS ON MY \_\_\_\_\_**

*"<sup>2</sup> Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. <sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure." James 4:2-3*

*"<sup>22</sup> ...seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:22*

*"<sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father." John 15:5-8*

## 7. THANK GOD \_\_\_\_\_

*"<sup>11</sup> As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. <sup>12</sup> As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, <sup>13</sup> crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup> He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. <sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" <sup>16</sup> He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup> Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you." Luke 17:11-19*

*"<sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7*