

The Purpose and Power of Prayer

1 Chronicles 16:8-15



1 Chronicles 16:8-11

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples.

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

Speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name;

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:12-15

Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done,
His marvels and the judgments from His mouth,
O seed of Israel His servant, Sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!
He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.
Remember His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded to a thousand generations.

Main Point

God has given us prayer
for great purpose and has
invested it with great power,
but pride keeps us from it.

The Purpose and Power of Prayer

What is the Purpose of Prayer?



What is the context of this Psalm?

The Purpose of Prayer

It is for giving thanks to the Lord.

1 Chronicles 16:8

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.

1 Chronicles 16:8

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples.

Prayer is for giving thanks to the Lord.

Daniel 6:10

And he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and **giving thanks** before his God.

Colossians 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it **with thanksgiving**.

Philemon 1:4

I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers.

Giving sincere thanks to God is
the antidote to worry, to fear,
to anger, to entitlement.

The Purpose of Prayer

It is for giving thanks to the Lord.

It is for exercising faith in the Lord.

1 Chronicles 16:8

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples.

1 Chronicles 16:8

Oh give thanks to the LORD, **call upon His name;**
Make known His deeds among the peoples.

Calling on the name of the Lord with thanksgiving fundamentally requires an exercise of faith.

All that is done in prayer, when done sincerely, is an exercise of faith!

1 Chronicles 16:8-11

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Make known His deeds among the peoples.

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
Speak of all His wonders.

Glory in His holy name;

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Seek His face continually.

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Speak of all His wonders.

Glory in His holy name;

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD **be glad.**

Seek the LORD and **His strength;**

Seek His face continually.

Just as faith without works is dead,
so are works without faith dead.

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Just as faith without works is dead,
so are works without faith dead.
None of these things will be pleasing
to the Lord apart from faith.

Prayer is given to you for the exercise
and development of your faith.

You cannot expect to have strong
faith without persistent prayer.

“Seek His face *continually!*”

The Purpose of Prayer

It is for giving thanks to the Lord.

It is for exercising faith in the Lord.

It is for ascribing glory to the Lord.

1 Chronicles 16:10

Glory in His holy name;

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

1 Chronicles 16:10

Glory in His holy name;

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

Prayer involves glorying in the
goodness and greatness of our God.

1 Chronicles 16:34-35

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Then say, “Save us, O God of our salvation,
And gather us and deliver us from the nations,
To give thanks to Your holy name,
And glory in Your praise.

1 Chronicles 16:10

Glory in His holy name;

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

Though prayer is a glorying in God,
it is also a key means through which God
receives glory for His great works.

If you are not praying and seeking
the Lord's help in all your affairs,
you will not be inclined to credit Him
with the good that comes to you.

The Purpose of Prayer

It is for giving thanks to the Lord.

It is for exercising faith in the Lord.

It is for ascribing glory to the Lord.

It is for seeking the Lord.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.

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Seek the LORD and His strength;
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To seek the Lord is to set your mind and your affections on Him, to look to Him for counsel and comfort.

Prayer is for remembering that the Lord is your first and best recourse in all your troubles.

The Purpose of Prayer

It is for giving thanks to the Lord.

It is for exercising faith in the Lord.

It is for ascribing glory to the Lord.

It is for seeking the Lord.

It is for remembering the Lord.

1 Chronicles 16:12 and 15

Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done,
His marvels and the judgments from His mouth...

Remember His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded
to a thousand generations...

There are at least three important
aspects of our remembrance of the Lord.

1 Chronicles 16:12 and 15

Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done,

His marvels and the judgments from His mouth...

Remember His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded
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1 Chronicles 16:12 and 15

Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done,

**His marvels and the judgments from
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1 Chronicles 16:12 and 15

Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done,
His marvels and the judgments from His mouth...

Remember His covenant forever,

The word which He commanded
to a thousand generations...

Prayer is a time for remembering God's good works, God's righteous judgments, and God's lasting promises.

When we take time in prayer to recount these things to our Lord, He strengthens our faith and comforts our hearts.

The Purpose and Power of Prayer

What is the Purpose of Prayer

What is the Power of Prayer?



The Power of Prayer

**It is the undoing of our pride
by exposure.**

1 Chronicles 16:11

Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Seek **the LORD** and His strength;

Seek **His face** continually.

Exposure to the glory and holiness
of God is crushing to our pride—
all who truly find the Lord are undone.

Isaiah 6:5

Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined!
For my eyes have seen the King,
the LORD of hosts.”

1 Chronicles 16:11

Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Seek the LORD **and His strength;**
Seek His face continually.

Sincere supplication for strength will
require honest admission of weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:10

...for when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face continually.

To continually seek the Lord
in sincere prayer is to continually
assault the fortress of your pride.

The Power of Prayer

It is the undoing of our pride by exposure.

**It is the anchoring
of our souls by faith.**

1 Chronicles 16:15

Remember His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded to a thousand generations.

1 Chronicles 16:15

Remember His covenant forever,

The word which He commanded to a thousand generations.

Jeremiah's Prayer...

Jeremiah 14:20-21

We know our wickedness, O LORD,
The iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against You.
Do not despise us, for Your own name's sake;
Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory;
Remember and do not annul Your covenant with us.

Jeremiah's Prayer...

Jeremiah 14:20-21

We know our wickedness, O LORD,
The iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against You.
Do not despise us, for Your own name's sake;
Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory;

**Remember and do not annul Your
covenant with us.**

One must remember the promises
of the Lord to us in order to remind
the Lord of His promises to us.

1 Chronicles 16:15

Remember His covenant forever,

The word which He commanded to a thousand generations.

1 Chronicles 16:15

Remember His covenant forever,

The word which He commanded to a thousand generations.

Remember that we have a better word!

Jude 20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Jude 20-21

But you, beloved, **building yourselves up**
on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously
for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Jude 20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up

on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Spirit,**

keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously
for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Jude 20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up
on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

keep yourselves in the love of God,

waiting anxiously
for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Jude 20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up
on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

keep yourselves in the love of God,

**waiting anxiously
for the mercy of our Lord Jesus
Christ to eternal life.**

Laying hold of the Lord by faith
-- remembering and praying His
promises to Him --
will drive the anchors of your soul
deep into the Rock.

The Power of Prayer

It is the unmasking of our pride by exposure.

It is the anchoring of our souls by faith.

**It is the cultivation
of trust by familiarity.**

1 Chronicles 16:10b-11

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.
Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:10b-11

Let the heart of those who **seek the LORD** be glad.

Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:10b-11

Let the heart of those who **seek the LORD** be glad.

Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face continually.

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Let the heart of those who **seek the LORD** be glad.

Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face continually.

1 Chronicles 16:10b-11

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face **continually**.

1 Chronicles 16:10b-11

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD **be glad.**

Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face continually.

The heart will be made glad for those who continually seek the Lord, who are growing in their familiarity with Him, who are regularly remembering His works and His words, and who are coming to Him and confiding in Him, finding Him to be a loving Father.

Consider Jesus' words...

John 10:4-5

When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.

Consider Jesus' words...

John 10:4-5

When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them,

and the sheep follow him because **they know his voice.**

A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.

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Consider Jesus' words...

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When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them,
and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

A stranger they simply will not follow,
but will flee from
him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.

If you do not regularly converse with
the Lord, He will remain a stranger to you.

Familiarity will cultivate trust!

The Power of Prayer

It is the undoing of our pride by exposure.

It is the anchoring of our souls by faith.

It is the cultivation of trust by familiarity.

**It is the effecting
of God's will by grace.**

1 Chronicles 16:12-14

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His marvels and the judgments from His mouth,
O seed of Israel His servant, Sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!
He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

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Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done,
His marvels and the judgments from His mouth,
O seed of Israel His servant, Sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!

He is the LORD our God; **His judgments are in all the earth.**

The Lord is sovereign over all, “for from Him
and through Him and to Him are *all things*.”

Prayer does not change this,
yet God uses prayer to effect it!

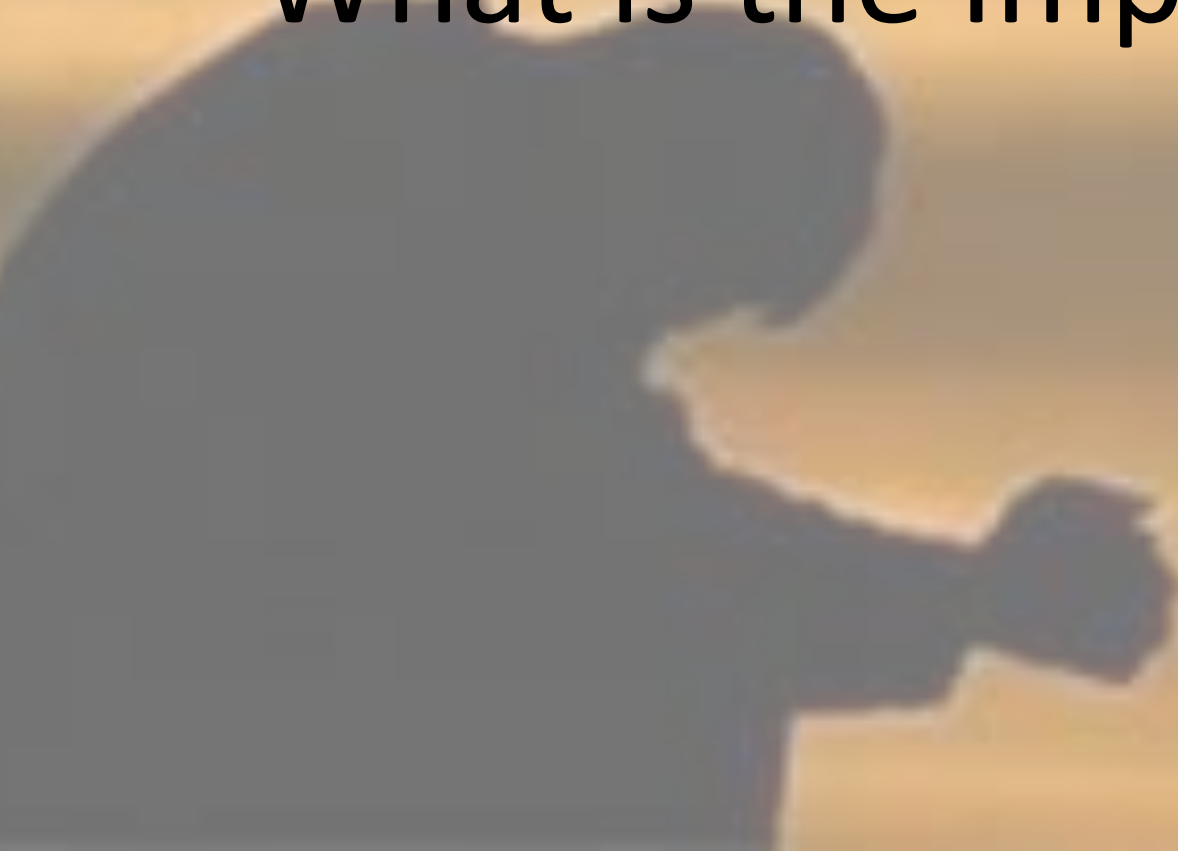
God has chosen to use our prayers
to effect His eternal decrees.

The Purpose and Power of Prayer

What is the Purpose of Prayer?

What is the Power of Prayer?

What is the Impediment to Prayer?





The Impediment to Prayer

Comfort and self-sufficiency

Jeremiah 44:16-17

As for the message that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we are not going to listen to you! But rather we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths, by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings and our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then we had plenty of food and were well off and saw no misfortune.

The Impediment to Prayer

Comfort and self-sufficiency

Shame

Genesis 3:8

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

The Impediment to Prayer

Comfort and self-sufficiency

Shame

Pride

1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore **humble yourselves**
under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you at the proper time,
casting all your cares on Him,
because He cares for you.

Ultimately it is our pride that is the greatest impediment to prayer. We do not pray simply because we do not see our need.

Conclusion

“Prayerlessness is practical atheism.”

By prayer we practice our faith; we show that we believe Him to be our first and best recourse, the fountain of all good.

Let us be a praying people!