

Growing a Healthy Flock, Part 5: Motive for Prayer

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Luke 11.

B. Continual prayer is essential for Christian living, and it is dependent upon God.

II. The parable of the reluctant friend.

A. God is not like an unjust judge.

B. He is kind and tenderhearted.

C. Consequently, we need to be persistent in prayer.

D. We are not heard for many words, but we are heard for the cries of our hearts. (Matthew 6:7)

E. Jesus prayed intensely and regularly. (Matthew 26)

F. Persistent prayer marked the early church. (Acts 14; 12; 1 Thessalonians 3:10; Colossians 4)

G. We pray persistently and simultaneously rejoice at all that he has done.

III. A list of things that are motives for prayer.

A. Desire for God's glory. (Daniel 9:19)

B. Desire for fellowship with God. (Psalm 42:1; 63; 84; 27)

C. Desire for needs to be met. (Matthew 6:11)

D. Desire for wisdom.

E. Desire for deliverance from trouble. (Psalm 20:1, Jonah 2:1)

F. Desire for the release from fear and worry. (Philippians 4, Psalm 4)

G. Desire to offer thanks for past blessings. (Psalm 44)

H. Desire to be free from the guilt of sin. (Psalm 32:3)

I. Desire for the salvation of the lost. (Romans 10:1, 1 Timothy 2)

J. Desire for the spiritual growth of believers. (Ephesians 1:15; 3:14-16)

Application Questions:

1. How should a proper view of God affect our prayer life?

2. What does it look like to pray "persistently?"

3. Which motive for prayer do you find to be most meaningful? Explain.
