

## WHY ARE WE REQUIRED TO PRAY?

1. Because prayer establishes God's sovereignty, might and majesty. The fact that we have to ask for blessing seals in our minds that God is our ruler and provider. Prayer reminds us that we need His guidance, permission and provision. If we did not have to pray, this vital awareness would surely drop out of our minds—so prayer keeps us under God's authority.
2. Because prayer brings us into fellowship with God. Would we relate closely with the Lord if we did not need to ask for our blessings?
3. Because prayer makes us deeply aware of His goodness and power. We repent and taste His forgiving love. We cry out for strength, and He restores and helps us. We ask for situations so hard that we are in despair, and He remarkably intervenes, leaving us in wonder at His kindness. If such blessings were given without our laboring in prayer, we would not appreciate them.
4. Because prayer shows us the full extent of our privileged status with the Lord. Almighty God is willing to be prevailed upon by His people! We may have no power of audience with the great people of this world, and even if we had, there is little likelihood of real influence. Yet we may go to the King of kings and Lord of lords, and be heard, because we are His own.
5. Because prayer teaches us our limitations. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve wanted independence, believing that God was withholding from them insight which would enable them to succeed without Him. Through prayer, God trains us to go in the opposite direction, and see we are incomplete and inadequate without Him.
6. Because prayer delivers from pride. If churches filled up without prayer, preachers would think highly of themselves, and take the credit. If we could live holy lives, or accomplish anything of substance without prayer, conceit would drown us. Prayer keeps us humble.
7. Because prayer delivers from self-interest, as we realize we cannot have whatever we like. Earthly aims and selfish things are shamed away before the throne of grace. We know instinctively that we must pray for others, and for the kingdom, and so we are delivered from the idol 'self.' The need to ask the Lord about every major thing we do or buy serves as a restraint upon our appetites. Prayer serves as a caution, and helps us to be better people.
8. Because prayer builds up faith and assurance more and more as one's memory bank of outstanding answers grows. At times the Lord delays His response until we pray repeatedly and more earnestly, all this being a trust-strengthening process. We come to believe with tenacity that He will bless, in due time. Many times when feelings fail, the evidence of God's fatherly goodness is derived from answered prayer.
9. Because prayer powerfully makes the believer aware that he is never alone. We can pray whatever our circumstances, wherever we are, and whatever the time. This is one of the great comforts arising from prayer, that nothing ever can separate us from the love of God.
10. Because prayer is a great leveller, teaching God's people that none of His servants are greater in His sight than any other. Paul pleads for prayer as though His usefulness depended upon it—and it did. Ordinary believers had a share in his ministry by prayer, remembering that as a needy mortal, he was like them. Paul also was saved from wrong views of himself.

Excerpt from *Sword & Trowel* 2013: Issue 1



PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017

*"Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."*

ISAIAH 56:7

1137 TENTH PLACE SOUTH  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35205  
205-323-1516 · WWW.GLENIRIS.NET

## THE BIBLICAL PATTERN FOR PRAYER



*"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."*

Psalm 51:10-12

## CHURCH MINISTRIES

Missionaries Worldwide	Bus Ministry
Glen Iris Baptist School	Children's Church
WGIB Radio (91.9 FM)	Youth Ministry
WQEM Radio (101.5 FM)	Senior Saints Ministry
WAY Television (Channel 47)	Ministry to Our Special People
Website (www.gleniris.net)	Benevolence Ministry
Visitation & Gospel Outreach	AWANA/CIA Programs
Jail Ministry	Blazers for Christ Ministry
Music Ministry	Highland Manor Ministry
Nursing Home Ministry	Princeton Towers Ministry
Gospel of John Distribution	Monroe Home Ministry

## TEACHERS AND WORKERS

Kathi Lamb & Leah Dickey–Nursery	LeGrand Lamb–Sunday School of the Air
Josh & Ashley Wilson–K4, K5	Gayle Waits–Just for Moms Class
Mabel Otamias–1st, 2nd	Joy Garrison–Special Adults Class
Charlotte Thornton–1st, 2nd	Ron & Sandy Haas–Children's Church
Valerie Rueckert–3rd, 4th, 5th	Cathy Davis–Primary Church
Jackie Young–3rd, 4th, 5th	Paul & Donna Hancock–Primary Church
Sandy Haas–6th, 7th, 8th Girls	Loraine Marcus–Primary Church
John Robertson–6th, 7th, 8th Boys	Josh Hayenga–Special Church
Anthony & Anna Johnson–9th-12th	David Hollis–Special Church
Randy Raiford–Young Adults Class	Jim Lollar–Superintendent

## MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

*The Matt Hancock Family  
Missionaries to Cambodia*

Please pray for these requests:

- Pray that a core group of people in Pa-au would become believers.
- Pray for new believers here to become well established in the faith.

## COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Jay Babin – UAB

## CHURCH FAMILY NEEDS

### HEALTH NEEDS

Dawn Bond	Robert Duke	Terry Reymond
Janet Brock	Cynthia Frey	Doris Robertson
Wendell Coleman	Jackie Lightfoot	Bette Talley
Jerry Dickey	Laura Nichols	John Talley

### HOME/NURSING HOME-BOUND

Sue Allen	Marlene Jackson	Juanita Ogle
Montez Haley		Helen Root

### SPECIAL REQUESTS

- David Costello – Surgery this Friday
- Jerry Dickey – UAB
- Shane Lewis (Leukemia) – Huntsville Hospital
- Terry Reymond

## DEACONS

Johnny Brock	Jim Lollar	Randy Raiford
Anthony Johnson	Jerry Mays	Terry Reymond