

## IT'S ESSENTIAL

Prayer is vital for the believer! It is a dynamic tool that should be used daily. It is our spiritual weapon of mass destruction against evil. It can change people, circumstances, systems, and conditions. Prayer should be an essential element in the plan and life of the believer. A praying believer is a strong believer. A believer who does not pray is susceptible to weakness. If we fail to pray, we neglect the power that is available for us, but if we employ it we can be conquerors! Prayer is necessary and needs to be active if we expect to live the bold lives that God is calling us to live.

### *WHY PRAY*

God has called us into a relationship with Him. Relationships require communication. Throughout God's Word we are taught the significance and role of prayer.

- ❖ GOD COMMANDS US TO PRAY. "...you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:12, 13 NIV).
- ❖ GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH PRAYER. "Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. May Your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing" (Psalm 143:10 NLT).
- ❖ GOD INVITES US TO BRING OUR BURDENS AND NEEDS TO HIM IN PRAYER. "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28 NLT).
- ❖ GOD RESPONDS TO THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE. "The earnest prayer of a

righteous person has great power and wonderful results” (James 5:16b NLT).

- ❖ GOD IMPARTS WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH PRAYER. “If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask Him, and He will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking” (James 1:5 NLT).
- ❖ GOD EXERCISES HIS AUTHORITY AND ABILITY TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE. “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer” (Matthew 21:22 NLT).
- ❖ GOD EXTENDS HIS POWER TO US THROUGH PRAYER SO THAT WE MAY RESIST TEMPTATION. “Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For though the spirit is willing enough the body is weak!” (Matthew 26:41 NLT)

#### Prayer gives strength in every area of our walk!

- ❖ It gives us boldness in our efforts for out-reach and in-reach.
- ❖ It aids in our praise and worship. We can have high spirited singing in our assembly.
- ❖ Provides an unspeakable joy throughout the day/week.
- ❖ Gives us courage to bear the difficult times.

#### Prayer shows your love and dependence on God.

- ❖ (John 15:7-10) “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. "