

PRAYER

Kicking Your Prayer Life Up A Notch

by Jon Jacobs, 2007

The following are some simple and practical suggestions on developing a vital prayer life.

I'm not aware of anything the church needs more than the faithful prayers of fellow believers. As you look into 2007, you may be asking, "How can I make a difference for the cause of Christ?"

The answer must begin with a renewed commitment to pray. Here are eight habits that characterize an effective prayer life:

1. Purpose in your heart to see prayer as one of your greatest joys. Train your heart to adore the time you spend with your Father.
2. Begin developing the habit of systematically extending your time in prayer.
3. Expect God to hear and answer your prayers. We are commanded to pray in great faith and confidence (James 1:6-7).
4. With a searching inquisitiveness, note and record how God has answered your prayers. Sometimes He answers in unexpected ways that can be missed because of preconceived expectations.
5. Encourage others to see you as a fellow believer who genuinely cares about them. Make yourself a spiritual resource to others.
6. Maintain an impeccable level of confidentiality.
7. Be quick to pray. When someone asks you to pray about something, pause that very moment to come before the Lord in their behalf.
8. Study the subject of prayer. Search the Scriptures for teaching on prayer as well as prayers that are recorded. Read a few of the many fine books that have been written on the subject. Research how prayer affected the lives and ministries of great men and women of God.