



ONE CHURCH-TWO LOCATIONS

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Message Series Theme: **Awake to Pray-Lord; listen to your children praying!**

Today's Message: Three Levels of Prayer-and the sin of prayerlessness

What comes to mind when I mention the word prayer? For some, maybe it's a ritual, perhaps a duty. For others it may have become a habit.

I want to begin by reminding you of something that ought to jolt us into pursuing God and prayer. Do you realize that God, in his infinite sovereignty and mercy and grace and wisdom and planning, has ordained that prayer should be the means by which He is going to implement and extend His kingdom here on earth? **God invites you and me to be a part of what He is doing and enter into it and to effect change because we pray!**

LEVELS OF PRAYER

Level 1-C_____ prayer-Level 2-C_____prayer

Level 3-C_____prayer

The Sin of Prayerlessness-I Samuel 12:24 HCSB

23 "As for me, I vow that I will not sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you. I will teach you the good and right way."

Why is prayerlessness a sin?

First, prayerlessness is a sign of a p_____ heart. They had an attitude that was filled with pride because they wanted to independently make their choices. (I Samuel 8:4) Prayerlessness is you and me admitting before God that we can run our own lives. It is a confession of our own self-sufficiency. It is a confession of our own wisdom. It is an acknowledgment that we have rejected Him and put ourselves in place.

Second, it is also a sign of a d_____ heart. (I Samuel 12:21)

Here is the question: Do we turn to God or do we not? Why is it that God is not reaching the deepest needs of human hearts today? Why is it? He does it sometimes. Why doesn't He do it more often? It is because we have not learned how to pray. Combat praying involves prayer and fasting!

It is also a **d_____ heart**. It's the sign of a proud heart and a divided heart, but also a deceitful heart. Samuel said in verse 24, *"Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all of your heart."* Samuel is saying to Israel, *"Serve God in truth. Don't deceive yourselves."*

Illustration: Wheelbarrow of Weeds



Prayerlessness is the sign of a **proud heart!**

Prayerlessness is the sign of a **divided heart!**

The dearest idol I have known, whatever that idol be, help me to tear it from thy Throne, and worship only Thee.

Prayerlessness is the sign of a **deceived heart**. Do you know why? It is because only desperate people pray.

Would you join me in praying, ***"God, show me what you see, show me what breaks your heart and let it break mine, show me the needs of others and oh Lord, teach me, teach me to pray. Lead me in the depths of prayer."***