

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105

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Don't Treat Prayer Like a Spare Tire

Mike Johnson

Do you spend a lot of time thinking about the spare tire in your automobile? Most people do not. In fact, many do not even check to see if they have a spare tire in their trunk. However, there is a time when all attention is focused on the spare tire, and that is when one of the other tires goes flat. Suddenly, in this emergency, the spare tire gets much attention.

Many people treat prayer in the same way that people treat their spare tire. They neglect prayer most of the time and only turn to it in cases of emergency. Prayer is not a part of their lives, but it is just something that they occasionally turn to when there is some great need.

Prayer should be an important part of the life of the child of God. It should not be an occasional endeavor. Jesus prayed a great deal, and we are to be followers of Jesus. The question has been raised, "How can a prayerless person be a follower of Him who prayed so much?"

I Thessalonians 5:17 says, *"Pray without ceasing."* This does not mean that we are to be involved in non-stop prayer. Instead, "without ceasing" means "constantly recurring." It means that we are to be regularly involved in prayer. We are to never abandon it; it is to be a part of our lives.

Another important passage is **Romans 12:12**. This passage says that we are to "continue instant" in prayer. The New American Standard Bible says "devoted to prayer."

We need to make sure that we do not treat prayer like people sometimes treat their spare tire. Prayer should not simply be something that we turn to in an emergency. Instead, it should be an important part of our lives.



"Prayer is not a way of making use of God; prayer is a way of offering ourselves to God in order that He should be able to make use of us." – William Barclay

What Do You Do More Than Others?

Frank Himmel

Our title is a question Jesus raised in His sermon on the mount (**Matthew 5:47**). What was His point, and what application do we need to make?

Principle

Jesus was discussing the command to love your neighbor. Some Bible students in His day narrowly defined the term neighbor; in fact, they went so far as to deduce that the command implied hating your enemy. The Lord strongly disagreed. He noted that God “*causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous*” (**v. 45**). God loves all, friend or foe. If we are to be His children, we must do likewise.

Jesus noted that worldly-minded people greet those who greet them and love those who love in return. If that is all we do, we are nothing more than children of the world. It is when we do more than others—when we do good or do right in every circumstance, not just favorable ones—that we show ourselves to be God-like.

Application

The point applies in countless areas. Consider a few.

“Honesty is the best policy.” Most people assent to that, yet many are ready to “fudge” if honesty puts them in an embarrassing situation or at a competitive disadvantage. God cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**). Neither can His children if they want to be like Him.

Society still calls for modest dress in some settings (several businesses still have dress codes for work). Those who dress modestly only (or primarily) in such circumstances are children of the world. It is those who go further, who are always modest regardless of what others wear, who reflect godliness (**1 Timothy 2:9-10**).

When we marry we vow to live together “‘til death do us part.” But what do we do when our “beloved” turns out to be not so loving? Will we love only those who fully love us? The world may jump ship, but Christians are committed to a higher standard. “*What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate*” (**Matthew 19:6**).

Doing more than others requires being in submission to every ruler, regardless of political views; leaving off all personal vengeance, in every form; forgiving all who wrong us, no matter how grievously; etc.

Doing more than others has nothing to do with rivalry, nor is it an effort at self-righteousness. It is simply a reflection of who we are. Jesus calls us to be distinct, lights in the world (**Matthew 5:14-16**). To do that we must be perfect [complete], as our heavenly Father is perfect (**v. 48**).

News and Notes

Members:

- * Vickie Berry had successful outpatient surgery last Monday.
- * Margie Frizzell has an appointment with a neurosurgeon tomorrow.
- * Thelbert Frizzell continues to have blood pressure problems.
- * Jerry and Cindy Jenkins have informed the church that Brandon “**will no longer be attending Lakeview with us on a regular basis. He is making his own decisions now. We pray and ask that you pray that he will make wise choices in his life.**”
- * Sarah Neighbours had successful outpatient surgery last Tuesday.
- * Cotton Read came home last Tuesday after a month in the hospital.

Friends and Family:

- * Bruce Diamond, friend of John Moore, is trying to get an infection under control to start chemo and radiation for his cancer.
- * Marshall Hunt returned home yesterday after successful back surgery last Monday.

Absent: David Bansemer (Broadmoor AM, work PM), Connie Cobern (Ohio),
Chris Gertsch (Dresden).

New Reports: None known.



“Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me through Your righteousness.” –

Psalm 119:40