

## WHY DON'T WE PRAY AS WE SHOULD?

### John 14:13-14

**Introduction:** Prayer is a word that we use to describe our communication with God. Every Christian is familiar with that word and every Christian has prayed at some time or other. Jesus taught that whatever we asked of God, believing, we would receive it.

1. Is there a more amazing statement than our text in the entire Bible? Discuss.
2. It is amazing, but true, Jesus said this and He can't lie. We say we believe it, if so, then why don't we practice it?
3. The story is told about a traveler who stopped in a town where no one wore shoes but the town had a shoe store. The traveler stopped one of the townspeople and asked him why nobody wore shoes, his reply was, "Ah, that's the question, why don't we wear shoes? Why don't we?" People had feet, they needed shoes, there was even a shoe store, shoes were available, so why didn't the people wear shoes? A silly story, but no sillier than why Christians don't pray as they should when God has so much to give.
4. Don't we believe in prayer? What prayer could mean to our lives? Sure we do, every Christian does, we know all about prayer, THEN why don't we pray as we should?
5. We give many so called "reasons" why we don't pray as we should: lives too crowded, too hurried, don't have the time, but given a choice between prayer and television, television always wins out. Others say it's a lack of faith or that they don't know how to pray, or that they are too ashamed to face God. NONE of these are the real reasons, so, why don't we pray as we should?
6. We believe in prayer, then why don't we pray as we should? The MAIN reason is that we seem to have nothing to pray for! We already have everything we need without praying and this is a supreme tragedy. Most people want so little that God offers. Most people are satisfied with practically nothing that God wants them to have.
7. Prayer is for an adventurous life. So many are satisfied just to be alive. No high dreams, no lofty hope, no great ambitions. A survey revealed that 9 out of 10 people have NO definite plan in life. DO YOU? Most people are content to just drift along, living day by day, satisfied with whatever comes along, thus wanting nothing, they pray for nothing.
8. Think now, why be contented with so little? Why not reach out for something BIG? So many, too many, get nothing out of their lives because they want nothing.
9. **Mark 11:23-24** Jesus states that we could move mountains if we wanted to. What a glorious promise and the key word is BELIEVING. It is a wonder that God even hears the prayers we make - IF He does. Does God have the power to answer our prayers IF He wants to?
10. Too often we are like the man in **Mark 9:22-23**. Notice the "IF's" IF's are always with us, never with God

11. The only limit Jesus says is our own belief. What is belief? It is a mental picture of what your desires are, to see clearly in the mind's eye, knowing it is possible to have what you see through God.
12. God wants us to have a happy, successful life and without ever asking, God has given us so much: a mind to think with, hands to work with, friends to be with and a world of unlimited abundance.
13. God has a Promised Land for us as He had for the Israelites. We need to say as Caleb said to the Israelites, "let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it."
14. In **John 5:6** Jesus asked a paralyzed man, "**...do you really want to be healed?**" "**...Rise, pick up your bed and walk...**" God had answered that man's prayer long before Jesus appeared but the man had not taken advantage of it. Jesus had to encourage him to do what he could have already done.
15. Jesus said, "**...things which are impossible with men are possible with God...**" Whatever we lack, ask confidently of God, believing, we will receive.
16. Christians, "...rise, pick up your bed and walk..."
17. Let us lift our eyes to higher things in life. This world is ours, God made it for us, Let us be happy, knowing that whatsoever we ask of God, believing, we will receive it.
18. Christian, God has plans for you but only as you surrender yourself to Him and trust Him to answer your prayers shall God accomplish through you what He wishes.
19. Let us therefore Pray, Pray, Pray, believing that what we pray for, knowing that if it is in God's will for us then we shall have it.