

The Immediate Benefits of a Day of Prayer

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There are amazing and immediate benefits when you take a day of prayer:

When we join our hands together, and consecrate a day for prayer with King Jesus, we ascend above our present trials and afflictions. In John 17:24 Jesus prayed, *“Father I want these you have given me to be with me where I am.”*

Think of taking an airplane to 35,000 feet. As you look at the world below, what seemed so big now seems so small. The world and all its problems are scaled to size. This is what happens when we pray! We are lifted up by the Holy Spirit and ascend to be present with King Jesus in His throne room. The world and all its problems scale down to size! Jesus looms larger and larger- at the same time your faith grows deeper and stronger.

When we pray in the presence and power of Christ, good things happen:

- Communion with Christ takes the place of loneliness and isolation
- Courage replaces fear
- Hope expels despair

There are at least 3 lasting benefits of a day of prayer:

1. As Jesus promises, prayers will be answered and your joy multiplied.

Abide in me... I will do whatever you ask in my name John 14:13
Ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. & This is to my Father’s glory... Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 15:7,8,16:24
When you pray- **you are doing something vital, important, powerful!**

2. As the fog lifts, and God Himself will reveal the path before you:

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion. Blessed are all who wait for him! As soon as he hears, he will answer you...your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Imagine you are on a mountain highway and you descend into a deep fog. Your visibility is zero. You need to slow down so that you don’t run into a car or truck in front of you. You need to go fast enough so the vehicles behind don’t run into you. It’s a ‘white-knuckle’ experience. Finally, you descend below the fog line. A stunning vista lies before you- you can see for miles. Now you are enjoying the ride and blessing the view.

Satan likes to immerse us in a deep fog- we can't see ahead or make progress- anxiety attends our way. When we consecrate ourselves to a day of prayer the fog lifts. Jesus rises like the sun on the horizon and suddenly the landscape of life comes into full view. We are able to see the path clearly. Life moves from white-knuckle anxiety to anticipation; from dread uncertainty to bold adventure.

3. You will be visited with a spirit of prayer.

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” (Zechariah 12:10)

- It is an infallible principle: “prayer begets more prayer”.
- It's like a flywheel- once the initial inertia is overcome by concerted effort, the wheel accelerates with its own gravity and momentum

So, it is with a day of prayer, once the initial inertia is overcome by some concerted effort prayer gains its own momentum. As the day progresses, intercession and praise move forward with greater ease.

IN SUMMARY: Consecrating ourselves to days of prayer works on the 80/20 principle.

- A life without prayer is 80% predictable and 20% adventure carried by the Spirit.
- A life filled with prayer is 80% adventure carried by the Spirit, and 20% predictable.

Our times are troubled. The church is drifting. Neighbors and friends are languishing. Now is the time to dispel the fear, renew the power, and resurrect our hopes.

The choice is yours to organize yourself or a group for a day of prayer. Jesus promises that benefits are profound, immediate and lasting.