**The Blessings to a Pastor Who Prays**

**1. Growing vision.**

**2. Growing love for the people in the church, even the weird and cranky ones.**

**3. Growing wisdom to make good choices in leadership of the church.**

Dr. Judson’s success in prayer is attributable to the fact that he gave much time to prayer. He says on this point: “Arrange thy affairs, if possible, so that thou canst devote two or three hours every day. Not merely to devotional exercises but to the very act of secret prayer and communion with God.

Endeavor seven times a day to withdraw from business and company and lift up thy soul to God in private retirement.

“Begin the day by rising after midnight and devoting some time amid the silence and darkness of the night to this sacred work.

“Let the hour of opening dawn find thee at the same work. Let the hours of nine, twelve, three, six, and nine at night witness the same.

“Be resolute in His cause. Make all practicable sacrifices to maintain it.

“Consider that thy time is short, and that business and company must not be allowed to rob thee of thy God.”

Impossible, say we, fanatical directions! Dr. Judson impressed an empire for Christ and laid the foundations of God’s kingdom with imperishable granite in the heart of Burma.

He was successful, one of the few men who mightily impressed the world for Christ.

Many men of greater gifts and genius and learning than he have made no such impression;

Their religious work is like footsteps in the sands, but he has engraven his work on the adamant.

The secret of its profundity and endurance is found in the fact that he gave time to prayer.

He kept the iron red-hot with prayer, and God’s skill fashioned it with enduring power.

No man can do a great and enduring work for God who is not a man of prayer, And no man can be a man of prayer who does not give much time to praying.

**Quote: Charles Spurgeon**

If you as ministers are not very prayerful, you are much to be pitied.

If, in the future, you are called to sustain pastorates, large or small, if you become lax in secret devotion,

Not only will you need to be pitied, but your people also;

And in addition to that, you shall be blamed, and the day cometh in which you shall be ashamed and dumbfounded.

The minister who does not earnestly pray over his work must surely be a vain and conceited man . . .

He must be a mere official . . . or a detestable hypocrite who loves the praise of men and cares not for the praise of God.

He will surely become a mere superficial talker, best approved where grace is least valued and a vain show most admired.

He cannot be one of those who plow deep and reap abundant harvests. He is a mere loiterer, not a laborer.

As a preacher, he has a name to live and is dead. He limps in his life like the lame man in the Proverbs,

Whose legs are not equal, for his praying is shorter than his preaching.

**Quote: Alistair Begg**

“If our prayer is meager, it is because we believe it to be supplemental and not fundamental.

“When I don’t pray, deep down inside it’s because I believe it doesn’t really matter.

“When I do everything else except pray, it is because I’m suspicious of the possibility that all these other things matter more than prayer.

“When churches have everything in their church calendar and prayer is somehow an addendum somewhere,

“Then it says about the church that they regard prayer as being supplemental not fundamental to what’s going on.”

**Quote: E.M. Bounds**

He who governs himself governs others.

He who has conquered himself can conquer others.

We can do but little to train others in principles in which we have never been trained.

We cannot project molding forces when we have never been fashioned by those forces.

**Quote: John Drescher**

Prayerless leaders are powerless leaders who produce powerless followers.

Until we learn to pray and know the revelation to spiritual truth which prayer brings,

We remain unbelievers at heart regardless of how many doctrines we declare or how much theology we teach.

Further, our work will not prosper and our people will stray.

**4. Growing power and anointing in the preaching of God’s Word.**

**Quote from: E.M. Bounds**

**Powerful and Prayerful Pulpits**

The power of the preacher lies in the power of prayer, in his ability to pray so as to reach God and bring great results.

The power of prayer is rarely tested, its possibilities seldom understood, never exhausted.

The pulpit fixed and fired with holy desires that presses these desires on God with a tireless faith will be the pulpit of power.

Nothing is so feeble, so insipid, so nonproductive as a little tedious praying.

To pray over our sermons in the same way as we say grace over our meals does no good.

Every part of the sermon should be born of the throes of prayer; its beginning and end should be vocal with the plea and song of prayer.

Its delivery should be impassioned and driven by the love from the furnace of prayer.

Prayer, on fire with intense desire and urged by a faith that does not fold its wings till God is reached, is the mightiest of forces.

Prayer that carries heaven by storm and moves God by a resistless advocacy makes the pulpit a throne and its deliverances like the decrees of destiny.

**Quote: E.M. Bounds**

This unction is not an inalienable gift. It is a conditional gift, and its presence is erpetuated and increased by the same process by which it was at first secured, By unceasing prayer to God by impassioned desires after God, by esteeming it, by seeking it with tireless ardor, by deeming all else loss and failure without it.

How and whence comes this unction? Direct from God in answer to prayer. Only praying hearts are the hearts filled with this holy oil; praying lips only are anointed with this divine unction.

Prayer, much prayer, is the price of preaching unction; prayer, much prayer, is the one, sole condition of keeping this unction.

Without unceasing prayer, the unction never comes to the preacher. Without perseverance in prayer, the unction, like the manna over kept, breeds worms.

**5. Emotional strength, stamina, endurance, and the ability to bear up under pressure increases.**

**Quote By: Warren Bennis**

Leaders learn by leading, and they learn best by leading in the face of obstacles. As weather shapes mountains, so problems make leaders.

**6. Growing joy in ministry.**

**7. Growing relationship with God.**

**8. Growing marriage.**

*Nothing is so feeble, so insipid, so nonproductive as a little tedious praying.*

Notes