

# Why People Cease to Pray?

1 Thess. 5:17

## Introduction:

- A. A preacher who ceased to give thanks at table.
- B. All great Bible characters prayed.
- C. Modern man degrades prayer:
  - 1. Reduced to child's play - superstition.
  - 2. Reduced to formality - "say prayers."
  - 3. Reduced to "last ditch" effort.
  - 4. Reduced to "mere obedience" – feel no need except God said to.
- D. Children often pray and cease as adults.
- E. Three chief reasons people cease to pray.

## Discussion:

- I. A Loss of Gratitude. (Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:15).**
  - A. A dangerous attitude (Rom. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:2)
  - B. We need be thankful and give thanks for:
    - 1. Material blessings (cf. 1 Tim. 4:4,5; 1 Tim. 6:17)
    - 2. Spiritual blessings (cf. Eph. 1:3)
    - 3. Relationships (cf. 1 Thess. 1:2, 3; 2 Thess. 1:3)
- II. A Loss of Dependence (cf. Acts 17:24-28).**
  - A. For our temporal well-being (Matt. 6:11)
  - B. For our spiritual well-being (Matt. 6:13).
  - C. For the success of our labors (1 Cor. 3:7; cf. 2 Thess. 3:1; Rom. 10:1-4).
- III. A Loss of Faith (cf. 1 Tim. 2:8).**
  - A. Three levels of doubt.
    - 1. That God can.
    - 2. That God does.
    - 3. That God will.
  - B. Most common doubt – think prayers changes nothing (cf. Jas. 4:2)
    - 1. Think miracle only way can answer – miracles ceased.
    - 2. But, God answers through providence.
      - a. Elijah's prayer (Jas. 5:17-18; cf. 1 Kings 18:41-46).
      - b. Hezekiah's prayer (2 Kings 20:2-3)
      - c. Manasseh's prayer (2 Chron. 33:10-13)
      - d. Jabez's prayer (1 Chron. 4:10).
      - e. God's work through nations (cf. Isa. 10:5-7).

## Conclusion:

- A. Must pray without ceasing.
- B. Must pray according to His will.
- C. Must pray without doubting.