

Spurgeon described his gratitude for being blessed with such a praying church. "I always give all the glory to God, but I do not forget that He gave me the privilege of ministering from the first to a praying people. We had prayer meetings that moved our very souls, each one appeared determined to storm the Celestial City by the might of intercession."

I want to feel the burden of prayer and share that with the church.

I must pray in 2021 because:

1. It is commanded by God.

Psalm 27:8 "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek."

Isaiah 55:6 "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" **Isaiah 56:7** "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." The command should be enough.

2. Christ's blood has opened the way.

Hebrews 10:19 "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Our access in prayer cost so much. Free grace is so expensive. Who would not see the value of the privilege in what it cost the Lord?

3. God's Spirit is within me.

Regeneration- a new heart. Unless born again will not enter the kingdom but all those born again are sons!

Romans 8:14-15 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

God's Spirit is within me, enabling me. (I can't say I'm not able).

4. I am a priest of the New Covenant.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

It is a privilege and a duty to serve.

5. I want to commune with God. Do this in part by prayer.

Psalm 145:18 "The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

I draw nigh to God- He draws nigh!

6. I want to see more of Christ in the Word.

Psalms 119:18 "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

7. I feel my remaining sin.

I will need to ask forgiveness in 2021. Told to pray- "forgive us our debts."

Psalm 51:2 "Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin."

8. God's name is being reproached all around me.

Isaiah 59:14 "And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."

God's will has been abandoned by society as a rule for morality and integrity. God's Word is not loved. God's worship is adulterated- false religion abounds.

In such times we must pray- **Psalms 94:3-4** "LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? [4] How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?"

God's saints have always prayed in times of crisis.

Moses- intercedes. Psalmists. Early church in Acts. Ch.4; 12.

Joel 2:17. "Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?"

9. I know that rulers need my prayers.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; [2] For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Rulers rule wisely in answer to prayer.

10. Few souls are being saved.

Honesty. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done."

Romans 10:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."

11. Christ's church is immature.

Heb. 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

Paul's prayers for churches. **Col.1:9** "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

12. I need power in prayer.

We must pray in order to pray. We long for effectual, fervent prayer meetings. Those prayer meetings arise in proportion to our faith. Hence, we need the Spirit to increase our faith.

Isaiah 44:1-3 "Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:"

13. The Great Commission is not complete.

Christ tarries. Global missions continue. Think the power of Pentecost and the place of prayer.

Paul asked for prayer. **2 Thessalonians 3:1-2** Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: [2] And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

14. I need power in preaching.

Paul asks: **Ephesians 6:18-19** "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; [19] And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."

15. We need laborers in the harvest.

Luke 10:2 "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

16. I want to know the Lord's blessings.

James 4:2 "...ye have not, because ye ask not."

Psalm 81:10-16. "I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. [11] But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. [13] Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!

[16] He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee."

- a. *Temporal*- “Give us this day our daily bread.”
- b. *Spiritual*- joy and peace in believing. **Romans 15:13** “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

17. My family needs the Lord.

Psalms 127:1 “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

18. The sick are healed in answer to prayer.

3 John v2 “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

James 5:14 “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:”

19. I need wisdom and guidance to live for God.

2021. How do I live in a world like this?

Prov. 3:5-7 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

20. I need God’s peace in every care.

1 Peter 5:6-7 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

21. I will need God’s strength in every trial.

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

2 Corinthians 12:9 “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”