



Pastor's Comments

In large print at:
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“Watch and Pray!”

I just preached a series of three messages on “**Primary Priorities For Rapture Readiness.**” The first priority is **PRAYER** by which one maintains a **close relationship** with the Lord. Speaking of His second return, Jesus said, “*But of that day and that hour knoweth no man...**watch and pray**: for ye know not when the time is*” (Mark 13:32-33). In Luke 21:36 Jesus said, “***Watch** ye therefore, and **pray** always, that ye may be accounted worthy to **escape** all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*” The **kind of praying** Jesus is talking about here is that of **secret fellowship** with the Lord, “*when thou **prayest**, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, **pray** to thy Father which is **in secret***” (Mat. 6:6). Do you have **personal times of prayer alone** with the Lord? Times when you talk to Him as friend with friend? Times when you take your burdens to Him and leave them there? Times when you praise Him for His goodness? Times when the glory of His presence floods your soul? **That’s the kind of praying that will keep you ready for the Rapture!**

In Acts 9:11, Jesus revealed that **praying is a proof one is a genuine Christian.** He assured Ananias that Saul, the persecutor, was changed and a believer, “*for, behold, he **prayeth!***” What does that indicate about those who don’t **pray**?

In Luke 18 Jesus told of an unjust judge who aided a widow only because of her persistence in asking for help. Christ’s point in this parable was “*that men ought **always to pray, and not to faint***” (verse 1). He concluded by asking, “*And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find **faith** on the earth?*” When Jesus comes again, will He find in you **persistence in prayer** like this that **never gives up** because it is **founded on genuine faith in God?**

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