

When You Don't Feel Like Praying

Scripture: Hebrews 7:23-25
(06-07-26 Dr. Adam Co)

The Bible teaches that believers should pray persistently and consistently. But, unfortunately, we fall short of this teaching. We often do not pray because we don't feel like it. What can be done about this issue? This sermon uses the doctrine of the ascension of Christ to address the problem. The doctrine of ascension highlights the biblical account that Jesus is now our Great High Priest in heaven seated at the right hand of God the Father. Additionally, the sermon provides four practical ways the doctrine of the ascension of Christ can specifically help us pray whenever we don't feel like praying.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. We all have experienced the mood of not wanting to pray. What were some circumstances in life that might lead a person to not want to pray? How did you try to remedy this situation in your own life (or did you)?
2. How does the fact that Jesus Christ is interceding for us in heaven according to Hebrews 7:23-25 help us to persist in praying and even to recover our desire to pray? Which of the two practical ways suggested in the sermon do you find helpful for you? Can you think of other practical ways along the lines of Jesus praying for us at the right hand of the Father that can help?
3. The imagery of Jesus Christ as our Great High Priest interceding for us today before God the Father in heaven may not be familiar for some or may raise questions in the mind of others. How does this imagery of Jesus as our Great High Priest strike you? Do you find it even unnecessary since we can pray to God ourselves? Discuss and go deeper on this work of Christ for believers today. (You may find it helpful to review your understanding of the Trinity.)
4. If Jesus Christ is the Great High Priest, then we are His priests (see I Peter 2:5, 9 and Rev. 1:6). How does this imagery of believers as priests strike you? Do you see yourself as Christ's priest? Why or why not? How does this imagery of believers as priests affect your sense of Christian responsibility, especially in praying for others?