

Contending

ENGAGING IN
REVOLUTIONARY PRAYER

PART THREE – February 10, 2019

Why pray?

1. **Prayer RE-SHAPES the FUTURE.** God’s Word shows us over and over that prayer reshapes what is happening in the world. In prayer we both release and receive God’s will “on earth, as it is in heaven.”
2. **Prayer is our primary _____.** We’ve been given prayer as an ever-present means to invite Jesus into any moment or circumstance. It is the first and strongest way to activate our faith, as it lays the faith-foundation for all else we’ll do.

As we pray, the fires of our faith are stoked by these reminders:

- Jesus is _____. (Matthew 28:20)
- Jesus is _____. (Hebrews 11:6)
- Jesus is _____. (Jeremiah 32:17)

Acts 4:24-31 When they heard the (threatening) report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them ... now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

3. **Prayer is our primary _____.** Communication and intimacy are directly linked. As we spend time in prayer, we become more like our loving God. Prayer moves us to love, and love moves us to pray.

Matthew 9:36-38 When he saw the crowds, he had *compassion* on them, because they were *harassed* and *helpless*, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **So pray** to the Lord of the harvest, to send out workers into his fields.”

1 Corinthians 13:7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.