

Prayers to Grow By – *More Than a Good Idea*

"Juneteenth" in Charlottesville: March 3, 1865 (14,000 freed -- 26 months after Lincoln's Proclamation)
John Wesley on prayer: "the breath of our spiritual life"
Wesley: Thoughts upon Slavery (1774)

We've been considering prayer for 10 weeks now:

How are you feeling? thinking? What are you
D _____ about it?
5 Q Self-assessment: When are you praying? Where
are you praying? About what are you praying? Are
you listening in prayer? With whom are you
praying?

It's a good idea.

More Americans believe in prayer than "absolutely"
believe in God (Pew, 2023).
Why would some people say they pray but don't
absolutely believe in God?
Being honest: We need help. We can't help
ourselves or our world.
We've learned from multiple people about prayer
(principally J _____).
Today, from Samuel: "More Than a Good Idea."

Samuel

Prophet. National leader. Last judge.
His M _____ prayed for him -- when she
couldn't even envision God's future in his life.
Who is God calling you to pray for? Child (any age)?
Spiritual child?
Samuel anointed Saul as king. Then anointed David.
Proclaimed God's Word.

Samuel is their spiritual F _____ .

His words for them:

*"Do not be afraid," Samuel replied. "You have done all this
evil; yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the
Lord with all your heart.*

*Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no
good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless.
For the sake of His great name the Lord will not reject His
people, because the Lord was pleased to make you His
own.* 1 Samuel 12:20-22

F _____ can lead us to turn away from God.
Idols (anything we would put in God's place in our
lives) are U _____.

Did the Lord make you His own because He had to?
He was P _____ to.

Samuel's words about himself:

*23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the
Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the
way that is good and right.*

*But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all
your heart; consider what great things He has done for
you. Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your
king will perish."* 1 Samuel 12:20-25

Samuel knew that ceasing to pray would be a S _____.
Your prayer life is not just about you.

It matters to God!
Failing to pray is I _____ God.

Rainforest Falls

How will you pray this week? Who will pray for them?

Pray like Jesus.

Next Steps

- 1) Prayerfully answer 5 Question self-assessment. Find a
time and/or people for regular prayer.
- 2) Who is God calling you to pray for?
- 3) When we pray, start with recognizing God's
P _____.