

# The Role of Private Prayer

## Lessons from the Prayer Life of Christ

On January 26, 2014, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

- **Christ's example** The beginning/ foundation of Jesus' ministry.  
Matthew 4:1-3a, Mark 1:12-13a, Luke 4:1-2, 14-15  
The role of the Holy Spirit.

The significance of being led into the *wilderness*

Results of following the Holy Spirit (Lk. 4:14)

- 1) Returned "in the power of the Spirit"
  - 2) Embarked on 3-1/2 years of ministry to thousands.
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- **Insight for Christ's followers** Connecting prayer, power, and the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life (Eph. 3:7-21)
    - 1) "Boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Christ" (v. 12).
      - a. The church is the vehicle God uses to make known His wisdom to the "rulers and authorities in heavenly places" (v.9-10).
      - b. Thinking of prayer as akin to standing in the room with all the spiritual "heads of state" should
        - i. Humble us
        - ii. Embolden us

- 2) Paul prayed that God would “grant them to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in their inner being” (v.16b).
  - a. Holy Spirit’s power is central to our success as Christians
  - b. Prayer is pivotal to His work in our “inner being.”
- 3) The effect of God’s fullness filling the church (i.e., those who comprise the church). (v. 20)
  - a. “All that we ask or think.”
  - b. “According to the power at work in us,”

- **Christ’s example** made time throughout His ministry to get by Himself to pray.
- Mark 1:35-39 Got up early and sneaked away to pray, received direction
  - Mark 6:45-48 Carved out *hours* of prayer at night – the only time He could
  - Mark 14:32-42
    - When Jesus’ “soul was very sorrowful, even to death” He went to pray.
    - He left “guards” to ensure privacy with God.
    - He was compelled to plead with God... alone.

If Jesus, who set the example for us to follow, saw prayer as so important to His life and ministry, does it not follow that we should have at least the *same* desire to pray – if not more