

Q: How do we prevent the use of the ACTS method from becoming stale or boring?

Pray the Circles

John Piper:

"Consider praying in concentric circles from your own soul outward to the whole world. This is my regular practice. I pray for my own soul first... Then I go to the next concentric circle, my family, and I pray for each of them by name. Then I go to the next concentric circle, the staff and elders of [the church]. I name them all by name. Then I pray for you [the church]. And then I go out from there to different concerns and groups at different times. The wider circles include the city and the state and the nation and the cultural and social needs of the world."

Circle 1: Your own needs.

Circle 2: Your family (people you have a special responsibility for).

Circle 3: Your church family (life, elders, members, ministries, future plans).

Circle 4: Your friends outside the church, your community, your nation, your world.

Application: **Plan to pray daily the three methods**

Joel Beeke:

"Block out stated times for prayer in your daily life. The Puritans did this every morning and evening... Between those stated times of prayer, commit yourself to pray in response to the least impulse to do so. That will help you develop the "habit" of praying, so that you will pray your way through the day without ceasing."

Q: What can we do to help those who find it hard to pray daily?

EQUIP MEN (3)

Introduction

Godly men aim to glorify God

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God?" (1 Corinthians 10:31)

We learn how to do this from THE godly man

Jesus read the Bible.

If we want to know how to glorify God, we need to be men who read the Bible too.

Jesus also prays.

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (Mark 1:35)

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (Luke 5:16)

If we want to glorify God, we need His help, so we need to be men who pray too.

Godly men pray

Q: Do you find prayer easy?

Q: What stops you from praying?

Q: Why is prayer so important?

John Bunyan:

“Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to the Word of God, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God.”

Men are to take the lead in prayer in both their own families and the family of God.

“I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.” (1 Timothy 2:8)

Q: What will this mean doing practically?

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18)

Q: What does it mean to pray in the Spirit?

Q: When should we pray?

Q: What should we pray?

Q: Who should we be persistently praying for?

Vitus Theodorus on Luther at prayer:

“I overheard him in prayer... with what life and spirit did he pray! It was with so much reverence, as if he were speaking to God, yet with so much confidence as if he were speaking to his friend.”

Plan for praying

Don Carson:

“Much praying is not done because we do not plan to pray.”

John Piper:

“Unless I'm badly mistaken, one of the main reasons so many of God's children don't have a significant life of prayer is not so much that we don't want to, but that we don't plan to.”

Pray the Bible

John Piper:

“Praying the Word means reading (or reciting) Scripture in a spirit of prayer and letting the meaning of the verses become our prayer and inspire our thoughts.”

Q: Why is it good to pray Scripture?

Pray ACTS

John Onwuchekwa:

“Four types of prayer are modelled and commanded in Scripture, and these should shape our prayer time... The ACTS model of prayer: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.”

Q: What are we doing in adoration?

Q: What are we doing in confession?

Q: What are we doing in thanksgiving?

Q: What are we doing in supplication?