

**Introduction**

1. The Sermon on the Mount
2. The practical application at the end
3. Wonderful promises re, prayer

**1. WHY DOES CHRIST URGE US TO PRAY?**

- 1) Because God normally does his works in this world in answer to prayers of faith
  - (i) "Ye have not because ye ask not"
  - (ii) "A double-minded man is unstable"
  - (iii) "Watch and pray... temptation"
- 2) God requires of us to live by faith:
  - (i) Look at Hebrews 11
  - (ii) The great lesson of Psalm 107
  - (iii) Prayer is soul-effort put forth by a believer to make progress:  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Moving the mountain (Matthew 21:21)  
**APPLICATION:** Do we know agony + urgency in prayer?  
See Christ in Gethsemane.

**2. WHAT ENCOURAGEMENTS HAVE WE TO PRAY?**

- 1) The whole Bible is full of encouragements:  
e.g. look at the NT promises, like this one.
- 2) Christ's illustration here (v.9-11)
- 3) Remember the whole of scripture:
  - (i) Abraham for Lot in Sodom
  - (ii) Jacob wrestling with the angel
  - (iii) Moses holding up his hands
  - (iv) Joshua – the sun stood still!
  - (v) Hezekiah: the angel struck the enemy!

- (vi) David facing Goliath
- (vii) Elijah: no rain for 3 years
- (viii) Daniel: stopped the mouth of lions

- 4) Text: what strong words to encourage us!  
Listen to John 14:13-14
- 5) Of course, there are biblical qualifications:
  - (i) to ask for God's glory + men's souls
  - (ii) to forgive all injuries: ch. 6:14-15

**3. HOW IS THIS TEXT A HELP TO US TODAY?**

- 1) We need as much today as ever:
  - (i) look at John Knox's prayers
  - (ii) remember John Welsh's prayers
  - (iii) look at William Carey, etc  
**Q.** How did so great things get done, except by prayer and pains?
- 2) We today have great needs:
  - (i) we need everywhere grace to help
  - (ii) fresh converts in all places
  - (iii) "open doors" – the gift of Christ
- 3) "All things are possible if we believe"  
**ILLUSTRATION:** the incident in Mark 9:23...

**CONCLUSION**

1. O be in prayer for what we need!
2. And bless God for all these faithful promises.

**PSALM****34: 1 – 9****91: 1 – 5****57: 1 – 3**