

Duewel, Wesley L.

Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

7. Prayerlessness Is Sin

This chapter argues that failing to pray is not a mere weakness but an actual sin. It works through four ways prayerlessness offends: against others, against God, against your own spiritual life, and as outright disobedience. It ends with hope: Jesus stands ready to save us from a prayerless life.

Key takeaways

- Not doing the good you know you should do is sin (a sin of omission). Prayerlessness is exactly this kind of sin.
- It is disobedience: God commands us to pray for leaders, for harvest workers, and for His kingdom to come.
- Jesus' model prayer puts God's name, kingdom, and will first. Praying mostly for yourself and your circle misses His pattern; intercession is prayer for others.
- Prayerlessness starves your own spiritual life, robbing you of Christ's presence, guidance, and power.
- It reveals a weak, loveless relationship with God and is a sin against Him directly.
- Rescue comes not from trying harder but from a new, closer relationship with Jesus, who waits to teach us to pray.

Passages worth keeping

“A child of God can grieve Jesus in no worse way than to neglect prayer.”

Frames prayerlessness as a wound to Christ, not a minor lapse.

“If there are any regrets in heaven, the greatest will be that we spent so little time in real intercession.”

The chapter's warning about looking back on a prayerless life.

How it connects

The chapter ties prayer to love: as David wept and Jesus wept over Jerusalem, real love drives us to intercede for others (Rom. 12:15, 'mourn with those who mourn').

Scripture referenced

- **1 Sam. 12:23** -- Samuel: failing to pray for others is sin against the Lord.
- **James 4:17** -- Knowing the good and not doing it is sin (basis for sins of omission).
- **1 Tim. 2:1-2** -- Command to pray for all in authority.
- **Matt. 9:38 / Luke 10:2** -- Jesus' command to ask for harvest workers.
- **Matt. 6:9-13** -- Model prayer: God's name and kingdom come before personal needs.
- **Luke 18:1** -- We should always pray and not give up.