

Why Pray?

As we commence our 40-days of prayer and fasting next Wednesday on October 11th, I pose the question: why pray more? Let me count the ways.

First, we are continually knifed by the jagged world and jagged worldly people who we love so much we hate them. Instead of dulling ourselves by any number of drugs, prayer invites us into the presence of God who always asks: 'Where is your heart?' Frankly, I often don't want to know. I want drugs! But more than drugs, I want peace, real peace that runs like a stream underneath my touchy self and wells up as I quiet my heart, feel the pain, and begin to allow living water to help me unload any number of conflicts I processed poorly in the hurried hours.

Second, prayer heals us. We pray more because the world isn't getting any better for us and we are not getting any better in facing its demands. The cure? More prayer, which is the way we unite with the One who loves us more than we love Him and who through Jesus surrounds and confirms us as beloved sons and daughters who need help. I pray because I need help. Always. I cannot say 'yes' to His will today without Him. I am His and I want His will to be mine. In prayer I re-up by fixing the eyes of my heart straight on Him who gave all to gain me.

Third, prayer softens our hearts. Only Jesus makes me cry. It's a good cry, born of gratitude for His self-giving, which frees me to release the everyday grief over the truth that I have little or no control over things in my life. My certainty is Him. I am being weaned off the world and secured in Him.

Fourth, prayer primes us to intercede for the hard-hearted. 'I weep because you don't', said St. Jean Vianney but we can do our part. We cry out to the Father on behalf of loved ones, certain that as the good Shepherd left good sheep behind to rescue us He will do the same for them (LK 15:3-7). Remembering His generosity toward us inspires gratitude which fuels our eloquent petitions: 'Get him (or her) God!' We must persist like one who pounded on the judge's door til the old crank got up and acted rightly (LK 18: 2-8). The logic is sure—if a divided man arose for her, how much more will Almighty God?

Fifth, prayer prepares us to answer our prayers or someone else's. As we welcome His generous love afresh and pray for that generosity to lance our beloved's heart, we are primed to make Jesus known however and to whomever He wills. I love being an answer to another's prayer! How can we not spill onto another if we have been before His altar where living waters are ever-rising (Ez. 47)? Declare Him or burst (Jer. 20:9)!

Why pray more? Prayer changes everything. Starting next Wednesday the 11th, follow the DSM staff with [this prayer guide](#). When possible, ask a prayer partner to join you. Let's pray together and become good news for the broken.

[Join us for the 'Becoming Good News for the Gender Challenged' fast from Oct. 11th-Nov. 19th.](#)

Download the Prayer Guide Below:



2017 Fall Report

A PUBLICATION OF DESERT STREAM MINISTRIES

Becoming Good News for the **Gender Challenged**

'FOR I have
not hesitated to
proclaim to you the
whole will of God.'
St. Paul, Acts 20:27

'You Will Be My Witnesses' (Acts 1:8)

FORTY DAYS

of Prayer and Fasting for the Church
October 11th—Nov. 19th, 2017

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

By Andrew Comiskey

Please join us for 40 days of prayer and fasting as we fight for the dignity of persons subject to a variety of destructive gender 'selves.' Together we will deepen our awareness of who God calls us to be as His faithful witnesses; we shall take bold steps to live the truth so bring God's Kingdom.