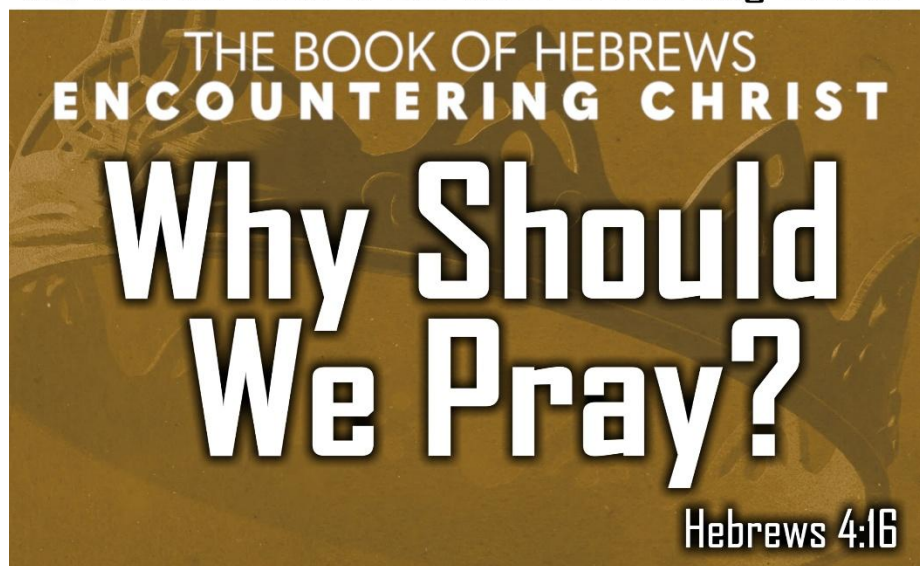




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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 171 (NT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

## A. Why Pray?

No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; The people who are not praying are straying. The pulpit can be a shop window to display one's talent; the prayer closet allows no showing off. Poverty stricken as the church is today and many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer we have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, in the place of prayer, we fail everywhere...The ministry of preaching is open to few; the ministry of prayer—the highest ministry of all human offices—is open to all.

- Leonard Ravenhill, *Why Revival Tarries*, p. 23, © 1959

1. It reflects our total dependence on God.
2. Prayer is an opportunity to bring our will in line with His will.
3. Prayer is an awesome, empowering privilege.

## B. Today's Text

# Why Should We Pray?

**Hebrews 4:14-16, NLT** - <sup>14</sup> So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. <sup>15</sup> This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

### 1. We have a High Priest who can help us!

**Hebrews 4:14, NLT** - <sup>14</sup> So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.

### 2. We have a High Priest who desires to help us!

**Hebrews 4:15, JBP** - <sup>15</sup> For ours is no high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses—He himself has shared fully in all our experience of enticements, except that he never sinned.

### 3. We have a High Priest who will help us!

**Hebrews 4:16, NCV** - <sup>16</sup> Let us, then, feel very sure that we can come before God's throne where there is grace. There we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it.

**Hebrews 4:16, NASB95** - <sup>16</sup> Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Some prayers are like a fire escape, used only in times of critical emergency—never very enjoyable, but used as a way of terrified escape from disaster. To pray effectively, it is required of us that there be no unblessed areas of our lives. No parts of the mind or soul that are not inhabited by the Spirit, no impure desires allowed to live with us, no disparity between our prayers and our conduct. - A. W. Tozer