

THE COST OF A PRAYING CHURCH

Acts 4:31, Luke 19:46

Introduction:

I heard someone say, “It doesn’t cost anything to be a praying church.” God rang that statement in my heart, and I have given this much thought. Financially, the outlay for a praying church is cheaper than any other spiritual ministry of the church; however, God has promised that our failure to be a praying church will be the most costly venture the church has ever encountered. There are two costs God wants us to realize.

I. THERE IS A PERSONAL COST.

1. It will cost us the rearranging of priorities in our lives (Matt. 6:33; Luke 18:1).
2. It will cost us the denunciation of pride from our lives (James 4:10).

II. THERE WILL BE A COLLECTIVE COST.

1. Our failure to pray will cost souls going to hell.
 - A. Charles Spurgeon’s Furnace Room.
 - B. Matthew 17:14-21 – Jesus told us the hard cases are won by faith, prayer, and fasting.
2. Our failure to pray will cost Christians yielding to temptation and back-sliding.
 - A. The model prayer says, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”
 - B. By prayer and God’s Word, Jesus was victorious over temptation.
 - 1) Prayer is the defensive weapon, and the Bible is the offensive weapon for the Christian.
 - 2) Prayer gives inward strength, and the Bible makes the outward assault when necessary.
3. Failure to pray will cost the church real revival.
4. Failure to pray will cause death to some who would have lived longer (James 5:15; II Kings 20:1-11 -Hezekiah)
5. Failure to pray will cost the success of our Christian world mission (James 4:2).

Conclusion: “My house shall be called a house of prayer.”