

# Vision and Values - Prayer

Tom Sumner  
29 August 2010

## Key Text

Isaiah 40:28-31

## Prayer

Prayer is vital to the Christian life, yet it often neglected when life gets busy. The Apostle Peter urged Christians to devote themselves to prayer. Prayer is not some magical formula that makes everything easy, instead Christians are told to *pick up their cross daily*. The key difference however is that while circumstances may not change, prayer will change the Christian's attitude and temperament to deal with the circumstances.

## Metaphor

The church is like living stones that have their internal integrity from the Holy Spirit, whereas the mortar to hold the bricks together is prayer.

## Church Growth

If 10% of the local population were to enter the church, then our current methodologies would not be adequate to handle that growth. An unfortunate reality is that much of church growth is simply Christians moving from one church to another, rather than new converts. Prayer is the impetus to revival. Choose a small number of people to pray continuously for, rather than praying for hundreds or thousands.

A lack of prayer is often a symptom of a lack of faith, and without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6). We are commanded to pray – Jesus said, *when you pray, not if you pray*. Faith is demonstrated through prayer. We are commanded to pray for our friends, family, enemies and leaders. Commit to praying for others daily.