

A Sunday School teacher asked a little boy, "Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say your prayers before you eat?"

Johnny replied, "I don't have to, my mom is a good cook!"

Many of the reasons we pray are for things to get better. Actually, in the Bible God says to call on Him on the day of trouble. To call on means to seek. It means to pray! The people of Israel called on and sought God when they suffered great tribulation in the land of Egypt. When Jonah was asleep on the ship during a great storm, the captain came to Jonah and told him to "ask your God." When St. Francis was seriously ill, he finally sought God. On the day of tribulation, we are calling on God.

Pastor Dwight Moody once said on prayer, "I'd rather be able to pray than be a great preacher; Jesus Christ never taught His disciples how to preach, but only how to pray."

Abraham Lincoln said on prayer, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day."

Prayer is a significant part of Christian life, as Jesus referred to the temple as the "house of prayer for all peoples", taught his disciples how to pray, and set an example of prayer in every moment of his ministry.

But today's society is a highly specialized, so in order to become a critical member of society, it is necessary to constantly develop and keep up with advanced information and knowledge. In addition, cultural and artistic life is

essential. We are living in a time when our own hobby and leisure life are indispensable in order to deal with all the stresses we have.

In today's market economy, money is needed to solve the most basic living problems. We spend a lot of time and energy in our lives to make money and to spend money well. In this busy world, even if the Bible tells us to pray without ceasing, Christians also fall into the thought that we can get by without praying or push off prayer for tomorrow or for the next time. Sometimes, NO! so many times, we are overwhelmed. Oh God, give us a break!

If you look at Acts 1, which we read today, Jesus appeared to his disciples while he was on earth for 40 days after his resurrection. And now he ascends to heaven in front of his disciples. As he was ascending into heaven, Jesus renewed his promise about the coming of the Holy Spirit who would empower them to be witnesses for Christ to the ends of the earth.

A witness is a person who speaks with conviction about an experience in his or her life. If we claim to be followers of Jesus Christ, we must speak with conviction about the things that Christ has done in our lives.

A little boy returned home after his first Sunday School class. His mother asked, "How did it go? Who was your teacher?" And the little boy answered, "I don't remember her name, but she must have been Jesus' grandmother because she didn't talk about anyone else."

The Bible records that what Jesus' disciples did to become Christ's witnesses was to return to Jerusalem and devote themselves to prayer. Then, should we go to Jerusalem and pray now? It's not like that. For them, Jerusalem

was the place of their lives. They must have had a lot of other busy things in their lives, but it means that they made prayer a priority.

Following Jesus' words, they prayed for the Holy Spirit to come to them. After they received the Holy Spirit, they did not stop praying. They prayed to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

When we look for the dictionary meaning of prayer, it is called communion and conversation between God and His believers. If conversation disappears in any relationship, whether one between lovers or between parents and their children, it is a red signal. This is also true for our faith.

Were the Early Christians praying only for the blessings of the world? If they were, they would never have been martyrs for the Lord. What they sought so earnestly was to for the strength, courage, and wisdom to live as Christians in the world. Therefore, they were able to live their lives as witnesses of the Lord, not even fearing the threat of death.

In order to live a life of faith in this world, we must rely on God every day through prayers. Romans 8:26 tells us something amazing about why we should pray. "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

The verse tells us that we don't know what we should pray. We have to pray but we don't, and we miss the prayer that is absolutely necessary for our soul. There are many times when we don't pray because we are busy, and when we are praying, we leave out the most important thing to pray about

and instead ask for something vain. "...but the Spirit intercedes for us through wordless groans."

Do you know why you should pray? Because the Holy Spirit is helping your weakness during the time that you pray! Despite your weakness, the hope for you is that the Holy Spirit helps you! Do you believe this? The Holy Spirit helps your weaknesses. That is why we should pray! That's why we should constantly devote ourselves to prayers!

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, please constantly devote yourself to prayer! Please give God the first seat of your life. Pray with a sincere heart rather than fancy words, and you will experience His grace that will provide you with the strength and the courage to live as Christians in the world. Fairfield Grace, May God's grace and peace and blessing be with you, with your family, with your business, with your studies, and with the lives of your children. Amen.