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WHY SHOULD YOU AND I PRAY?

(LUKE 18:9-14)

1. BECAUSE PRAYER KEEPS US HUMBLE

Unless it's called to our attention, we forget how dependent we are in life.
Prayer reminds us of our dependence on God:

(Luke 11:2-4) "... give us this day our daily bread ... "
Even the posture of prayer displays humility and dependence.

2. BECAUSE PRAYER KEEPS TROUBLE AWAY

Jesus' model (instructional) prayer includes: "and lead us not into temptation"
(Luke 22:40) "Pray, that you may not enter into temptation"
(Phil. 4:6-7) "In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer ... "
(1 Tim. 2:1-2) "... prayers ... be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority;
that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty"

3. BECAUSE PRAYER MAY INCUR GOD'S FAVOR

(Luke 11:8) "... because of his persistence ... " (v9) "ask"
Isaiah told Hezekiah that he would die from his illness.

(2 Kings 20:3) "O Lord, I beseech thee ... "
(v5-6) "I have heard your prayer. I will heal you ... "

4. BECAUSE PRAYER MAY CHANGE US

Two examples:

Jesus: (Luke 22:41-42) "remove this cup" (v43) "an angel ... strengthening him"
Paul: (2 Cor. 12:7-8) "for this thing I besought the Lord thrice ... "
(v9) "he said, My grace is sufficient for thee"

When prayer does not change the "thing;" it changes "me" to be strong and trust God.

5. BECAUSE PRAYER IS ADDING TO OUR STRENGTH

It is illustrated during natural disasters: we do all that we can, and we pray, too.
Doctors, and the science of medicine, reaching their limits, pray.
(Mark 9:29) "... this kind cannot come out by anything but prayer"
The disciples left out one important resource: prayer.

6. BECAUSE PRAYER IMITATES THE MASTER

Jesus had miraculous power, told marvelous parables; yet, He prays.
A partial listing of Jesus' prayer life: (Mark 6:41; 14:26; Luke 3:21; 6:12-13; 6:41;
9:28; 22:19; 23:34; John 17:1-26)

CLOSE: Prayer is not a substitute for obedience.