

JOIN THE REBELLION

Series: “REBELLION AGAINST THE STATUS QUO”, Part 1 of 4

Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: Selected Scriptures

Big Idea: To start praying is to join a rebellion against the status quo.

1. PRAYER AS “RELIGIOUS DUTY.”

Martin Luther said, “As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.”^[1]

J.C. Ryle said, “What is the reason that some believers are so much brighter and holier than others? I believe the difference, in nineteen cases out of twenty, arises from different habits about private prayer. I believe that those who are not eminently holy pray little, and those who are eminently holy pray much.”^[2]

Robert Murray McCheyne said:

“What a man is alone on his knees before God, that he is, and no more.”

2. PRAYER AS “GETTING THINGS FROM GOD.”

A. We are desperate sometimes.

B. We are inherently selfish.

3. PRAYER AS THE NATURAL COMMUNICATION THAT EXPRESSES A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Psalm 139:1-4, “O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴**Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.**”

Matthew 6:7-8, "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for **your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**"

John 17:3, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

Acts 9:11-12, "The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

Acts 10:9, "About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray."

Acts 10:30-31a, "Cornelius answered: "Four days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me ³¹and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer'"

Acts 13:2a, "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting."

Acts 13:2, "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 22:17-18, "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'"

Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

^[1] John Blanchard, comp., *Gathered Gold: A Treasury of Quotations for Christians* (Welwyn, Hertfordshire, England: Evangelical Press, 1984), 227.

^[2] J.C. Ryle, *A Call to Prayer* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1979), 35.