

**Devotional Thoughts :: INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT CHURCH LIFE by Jim Cymbala**

**INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT CHURCH LIFE by Jim Cymbala - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/5/10 11:37**

The clearest instructions about church life come when Paul tells young Timothy how to proceed. "I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone" (1 Timothy 2:1).

Later in the same chapter (verse 8) Paul says, "I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing." That is a sign of a Christian church.

The book of Revelation says that when the twenty-four elders fall at the feet of Jesus, each one will have a golden bowl "and do you know what's in the bowls? What is this incense that is so fragrant to Christ? The prayers of the saints" (Revelation 5:8).

Just imagine . . . you and I kneel or stand or sit down to pray, really opening our hearts to God and what we say is so precious to Him that He keeps it like a treasure.

Do you know of a church in your community that says because prayer is so great, so central to Jesus' definition of the church, that on a prominent night of the week they are going to concentrate on prayer . . . with all their leaders present?

For myself, I have decided that our church's Tuesday night prayer meeting is so crucial that I will never be out of town two Tuesdays in a row. If that means that I cannot accept certain speaking invitations, so be it. Why would I prefer to be anywhere else?

The Bible has all these promises:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

"You do not have, because you do not ask God" (James 4:2).

Isn't it time to say, "Stop! We're going to pray, because God said that when we pray, He will intervene."

**Re: INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT CHURCH LIFE by Jim Cymbala - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/5/10 13:09**

About two years ago or so, I was at a near by City that is about 2 hours from my house.

I was listening to the various christian stations on the radio while driving and I was shockingly suprised by a preacher presented on one of the stations who actually had some power behind his preaching, unlike most of the powerless : motivational, political, phycological etc. that unfortunately is on much of the christian radio that I am used to.

So I listened closely wanting to know whom this preacher was, I found out that it was Jim Cymbala and that SI hosted many of his sermons.

Since that time I have listened to many of his sermons hosted on SI and have been very Blessed by them.

Thankyou