

Text: Psalm 25:4-10

Theme: Give Me a Reason to Pray

December 2, 2018

How many of you, as kids, always wanted to know why, always needed an explanation, always wanted a good reason before you did almost anything? With a few exceptions, we've all found ourselves asking why, insisting on an explanation. In this psalm, David offers a passionate prayer to God and, as he does so, he gives us multiple reasons to pray. Today, as we consider this prayer, we focus on our theme: Give Me a Reason to Pray.

I. As David pours out his heart before his God, we find a reason to pray. 1. We go to our God in prayer because He has chosen not to remember our sins. If you jump ahead a bit in our text, you find the words, "Remember not the sins of my youth." What if God remembered our sins, what if God kept His little black book or more like His 500 volume set of black books on each one of us? Because we know God is deliberately forgetful, we are motivated to pray, motivated to ask God to forgive convinced that the moment God forgives is the same moment that God forgets. How wonderful it is that God has a bad memory, that He doesn't remember our past mistakes.

2. We're motivated to pray because God remembers His love for us. "Remember, Lord, Your great mercy and love for they are from of old." How many of you enjoy being around someone who is always eager to point out your mistakes? We avoid those people like the plague, don't we? But those who remember our acts of care and kindness, those people we enjoy being around. We have every reason to talk to our God because we know, before we even speak a word, that God is love, that God is loving, and that God will always remember His love for us. Because God remembers His love, we're eager to pray convinced God's response will always be out of love.

3. We're motivated to pray because God remembers us. David writes, "According to Your love, remember me." Why should He? Why would He? Why does He? With over seven billion people in the world, God remembers you. If we could find no other reason to pray, this would be reason enough! The God who is love, remembers, but there's more to the picture. The word "remember" in the Old Testament Hebrew wasn't a casual remembrance, but a detailed, I know everything about you and I still love you kind of remembrance. Because God remembers us, we remember the value of standing in His presence in prayer.

4. We go to God in prayer because He offers to teach us. Why do we have schools? Is it merely a way to occupy their time until they grow up and become useful to society? If we don't teach the next generation, there will be no next generation. Our loving God offers to teach us because knowledge is the key to life. The more we know about our God, our purpose for living, and our eternal life, the more motivation we find to press on. Three different times in our text, David reminds us that God teaches and when God is our teacher, we are grateful to be one of His life-long students because we know He is preparing us for the next part of His plan.

5. We're motivated to pray because He is our only Savior. Notice David's words, "You are my Savior." If it were possible to create a list, how many saviors would we find in our world today? Beyond all those useless saviors, we have a Savior, who is

Christ the Lord. In that Savior, we have the guarantee of salvation, the promise of eternal life, the promise that all this is temporary, a drop of water in the ocean compared to what awaits us in heaven. Because we have a Savior who saves us from this broken world, we're anxious to talk to Him because we know He will lead us through the maze of this world so that we can join Him in heaven.

6. We're motivated to pray because He is good to us. We recognize the words, "O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good." But does God being good really motivate us to do anything? Go back to the first chapter of the Bible. If you look, you will find the phrase, "And God saw everything He had made and it was good." Just good? Or does "good" mean something more than our definition of good? Let's try words like awesome, magnificent, amazing, beyond our wildest imaginations, beyond anything we can think, and that's just the beginning. Yet with those few terms to define good, we realize that we have yet another reason to pray.

7. We go to our God in prayer because He promises to guide us. What's the purpose of a tour guide? Tour guides show us what they want us to see. What if God functioned like a typical tour guide? What if He only showed us the great moments in our lives? As He promises to guide, He promises to show us the life He designed just for us, the life He knows is best for us, the life here that will lead us to eternal life there. Because God promises to guide us, we stand before Him in our lostness, our brokenness as we ask God to show us the way, to be our life-guide, and with Him as our guide, we return frequently for more instructions.

8. We're motivated to pray because He is our only hope. Suppose you had a quarter that was unlike any other quarter in the world. How many of you would spend that quarter on your next ice cream cone at McDonalds? "Only" registers in our mind as incredibly valuable, priceless. In a world where so many are looking for someone or something to put their hope in, we have the only hope, that hope that gives us a reason to turn the next page in our life and see what God has waiting for us. Because God is our only hope, because we possess this priceless treasure, we have an incredible reason to bow the knee in prayer.

9. We're motivated to pray because God is faithful. "All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful," David reminds us. How many promises has God made in His Word? How many promises has He made in the past 5,000 years? How many promises has He made to you since you were born? Now, how many of those promises has God kept? Because God has kept every promise He has ever made, we are bold to come to our Father and to pray, "Our Father, who are in heaven," because we know, with absolute certainty, that God will do what God has promised to do for us because, with God, it can be no other way.

10. Whether kids or adults, we want to know why, we want to know what good it's going to do us to do x, y, or z. Although we may not have those answers for other areas of life, in the arena of prayer, God is generous. And with that generosity, He gives us all the reasons we need to be and to remain fervent in prayer. Amen.