Introduction:
1. Growing involves communication with God through prayer.
2. If we are to grow in the Lord, we must be a people of prayer.
3. How can we cultivate a stronger prayer life before the Lord?
4. To gain a stronger prayer life we must look to…

I. THE EXAMPLE OF PRAYER
A. JESUS WITHDREW HIMSELF TO PRAY
   1. The multitudes desired the presence of Jesus -Lk 5:15
   2. Jesus would often go to the wilderness and pray -Lk 5:16
   3. Jesus arose before anyone else to pray -Mk 1:35

B. JESUS PRAYED AT MAJOR EVENTS
   1. He prayed at His baptism -Lk 3:21, 22
   2. He prayed before calling the twelve -Lk 6:12
   3. He prayed in Gethsemane -Lk 22:39-46
   4. He prayed before His arrest -Jn 17:1-ff

II. THE TEACHING OF PRAYER
A. PERSISTENT WIDOW -Lk 18:1-8
   1. He taught so His disciples would never lose heart
   2. God is the contrast to the unjust judge; He will answer!

B. THE MODEL PRAYER -Lk 11:1-4
   1. The prayer is not verbatim, but a model to follow.
   2. Note some characteristics:
      a. Short
         i. No vain repetitions -Mt 6:7
      b. Simple
      c. Humble -shows our dependence on God
      d. Realistic
         i. We need God’s forgiveness
         ii. We must forgive others

III. THE BENEFITS OF PRAYER
A. THE DAYS OF JESUS
   1. The feeding of the 5,000 -Lk 9:10-17
   2. Multiple healings -Lk 9:37-42
   3. Casting out demons by prayer and fasting -Mk 9:28, 29

B. OUR BENEFITS TODAY
   1. We cast our cares on Him -1Pe 5:7
   2. He is the God of all comfort -2Co 1: