

Pray Without Ceasing

I Thess. 5:14-23

□ *The Place of Prayer In Our Lives...*

- What is the place of prayer have in my life?
- Do I pray regularly? Spontaneously? As a last resort?
- For what do I pray? For whom do I pray?
- How fervently do I pray?
- Do I pray in faith?
- Am I drawing ever closer to God in prayer?

□ *It Is God's Will That I Pray.*

- I Thess. 5:18 → "in everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- Matt. 7:21 → 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven – only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

□ *Consider The Teaching and Actions of Jesus Concerning Prayer.*

- Before choosing the apostles; John 17; In the garden of Gethsemane.
- Jesus taught the need to be consistent and persistent in prayer. (Lk. 11:5-10; 18:1-8)

□ *Consider The Teaching and Actions of Paul Concerning Prayer.*

- Look at the prayers of Paul in his letters to Christians and churches.
- Scriptures:
 - I Thess. 5:17 → Pray without ceasing.
 - Rom. 12:12 → Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer.
 - Eph. 6:10 → Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
 - Col. 4:2 → Be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.

□ *Why I Need To Pray Without Ceasing...*

- To praise God. (Heb. 13:15; Matt. 6:9)
- For God's will to be done on earth. (Matt. 6:10)
- For life's daily needs. (Matt. 6:11; II Thess. 3:10)
- For forgiveness. (Matt. 6:12; I Jn. 1:7-10; Acts 8:22)
- For protection. (Matt. 6:13; I Cor. 10:13; Ps. 119:11)
- For peace of mind. (Phil. 4:6)
- For strength. (Eph. 3:14-16)
- For opportunity. (II Cor. 2:12; Gal. 6:10; Col. 4:3)
- For boldness. (Acts 4:29)
- For wisdom. (Js. 1:5-8)
- For healing. (Js. 5:14-15)
- For a tranquil life. (Dan. 4:17; I Tim. 2:2)
- To thank God. (I Thess. 5:18)

□ *How Can I Pray Without Ceasing?*

- Does not mean non-stop, every single moment.
- It does mean:
 - Persistent and consistent. Not giving up.
 - An attitude of prayerfulness and a consciousness of God's presence every moment.
 - This will help us to find regular times to pray: (Ps. 55:17; Dan. 6:10)
 - This will help us to be spontaneous in our prayer life: I Chron. 15:20; Neh. 2:4-5; Act 16:25. At any moment we should be ready to call on God in prayer.