

"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING"

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

INTRO: I want to begin this message by asking you a question that is VERY DIRECT and BEFORE GOD DESERVES AN HONEST ANSWER! ***THE QUESTION: HOW IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE?*** With an HONEST EVALUATION, ***WHAT GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE YOURSELF FOR YOUR PRAYER LIFE?*** From the perspective of THE BIBLICAL WORLD VIEW, ***PRAYER IS TO BE THE MOST CONSISTENT PART OF THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE!*** This is seen in the text that we have before us today that we want to consider: ***PRAY WITHOUT CEASING! DO YOU?***

EXPOSITION OF 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17:

- ***"TO UNCEASINGLY PRAY"***
- To ALWAYS be in touch with God

DEFINITION OF PRAYER: ***"PRAYER IS THE COMMUNION (FELLOWSHIP) OF THE BELIEVER'S HEART WITH GOD THAT IS CONDUCTED THROUGH PRAISE, INTERCESSION, SUPPLICATION, SUBMISSION, CONFESSION AND WAITING UPON THE LORD THAT HAS THE GOAL TO GLORIFY GOD IN ALL THINGS."***

- PRAISE – To Commend God for His Person and His Works
- INTERCESSION – To Pray for the Needs of Others
- SUPPLICATION – To Sincerely Plead unto God
- SUBMISSION - To Bow to the Will of God without Rebellion
- CONFESSION – To Agree with God about our Sin
- WAITING – To have Patience in God's Timing

OBSERVATIONS:

- 1) Prayer is a Divine Mandate – 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Jeremiah 33:3
- 2) Prayer is to be Constant – Not just an activity from time to time, but A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE BELIEVER.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

- 1) Prayer was the WAY OF LIFE for Christ on Earth (Seen in all four Gospels)
 - Mt. 14:23; Mk. 1:35; Lk. 9:18; John 17
- 2) Prayer was the PRACTICE of the Early Believers after Christ's Ascension
 - Acts 1:4; 2:42; 6:4; 12:11
- 3) Prayer was a VITAL PART of the Apostle Paul's Life
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 3:10

QUESTIONS:

- 1) How Active is YOUR Prayer Life?
- 2) How Effective is YOUR Prayer Life?
- 3) How Obedient is YOUR Prayer Life?

MOTIVATIONS FOR UNCEASING PRAYER

- 1) Pray to Glorify God – Matthew 6:9,10
- 2) Pray to Fellowship God – Psalm 42:1,2
- 3) Pray to Obey God – Jeremiah 33:3
- 4) Pray to Have God Meet our Needs – Matthew 6:11
- 5) Pray to Receive Divine Wisdom in Trials – James 1:5

- 6) Pray to be Delivered in Times of Stress – Psalm 18:6
- 7) Pray to Overcome Worry and Anxiety – Philippians 4:6,7
- 8) Pray to Confess Sin – 1 John 1:9
- 9) Pray for the Good of All People – 1 Timothy 2:1
- 10) Pray for Those in Authority – 1 Timothy 2:2
- 11) Pray for the Salvation of Souls – Romans 10:1
- 12) Pray for the Spiritual Growth of Other Believers – Colossians 1:9-12

LESSONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR PRAYER

- 1) A BELIEVER WITH A LIMITED PRAYER LIFE IS A BELIEVER WITH A WEAKENED SPIRITUAL LIFE.
- 2) A BELIEVER WITH AN ACTIVE PRAYER LIFE IS A BELIEVER WHO:
 - Obeys God
 - Honors God
 - Worships God
 - Serves God
- 3) A BELIEVER WHO LOVES GOD WILL PRAY.
- 4) WHY WON'T YOU PRAY?
 - Personally?
 - Corporately?
 - Publicly?
- 5) WHAT WILL YOU DO **TODAY** TO ADVANCE YOUR PRAYER LIFE?
- 6) WILL YOU DETERMINE **TODAY** TO SHARPEN YOUR FOCUS ON PRAYER?

LET'S NOT JUST TALK ABOUT PRAYER – LET'S NOT JUST SING ABOUT PRAYER – LET'S NOT JUST STUDY ABOUT PRAYER – LET'S PRAY

“AND HE SPAKE PARABLE UNTO THEM TO THIS END, THAT MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY, AND NOT TO FAINT.”
LUKE 18:1