

SUMMER COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
SUMMER 2024
“ADJUSTING MY WAYS TO PRAY WITHOUT
CEASING IN MY PRIVATE LIFE”
KEY SCRIPTURE: 1 THESS 5:16-18
JULY 17, 2024

1Th 5:16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (NKJV)

*Lu 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men **always ought to pray and not lose heart**, (NKJV)*

Mt 6:5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

*6 "But you, **when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place**; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

*7 "And when you pray, **do not use vain repetitions** as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.*

*8 "Therefore do not be like them. **For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.***

9 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (NKJV)

Mt 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

9 "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10 "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (NKJV)

*Mt 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, **bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,***

45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (NKJV)

*1Ti 2:1 Therefore I exhort **first of all** that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,*

2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle--I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying--a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; (NKJV)

I. THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER

A. The disciplined practice of Jesus, the Son of God

B. The consistent teaching of Jesus

- 1. It is to be private and personal in contrast to the "hypocrites" who were publicly vocal to be seen by men*
- 2. It is to be prayer TO the Father*
- 3. It is to be intentional and to the point; no vain repetitions*
- 4. It is to reflect the compassionate, forgiving, merciful character of God; so we pray for our enemies*

- C. It is to be our top priority in spiritual disciplines or obedient walk with God 1 Tim 2:1-8*
- D. It is to be persistent and prevailing until answered*
- E. It is the tool that connects God with humans and brings His will into our experiences*

II. THE PROBLEM OF PRAYER

- A. It is the most difficult discipline to complete*
- B. It takes too much time*
- C. You aren't really "doing" anything; you can't just be praying all the time, you need to be working to get anything done*
- D. Seems like a waste of time, if you don't know God is really hearing you or not*
- E. It is really hard for people of action who would rather DO something than simply pray*
- F. It is really hard for lazy people since they didn't want to do anything in the first place*
- G. Unless it is a vital part of one's schedule, it is an unaffordable luxury*
- H. We do not consider it essential to life i.e. eating is essential, quenching thirst is essential, prayer is not essential to most unless we are in deep need that we cannot solve any other way*
- I. It takes too long to get an answer*
- J. It requires more faith than most people have*
- K. It is easier to ask someone else to pray for us*
- L. We do not know what to say*
- M. Our relationship to God is like that of the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai*

III. THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

- A. It happens as a result of recognizing one's continuous need versus his occasional need when he is not caring for himself*
- B. It happens when one has found the wonder and beauty of a personal relationship with God*
- C. It happens when one sheds his pride and dons the garment of humility; it is the end of self-sufficiency and pride in oneself*
- D. It comes about when one sees that God and God alone is all that can meet the need of provisional care for everything*

- E. It is the natural outflow of rejoicing and gratitude when one comes to see how God is present even in the smallest of things with full interest in his life.*
- F. It happens when one can see the power of God to influence people to righteousness and grace or even to change their minds or have their plans frustrated or accomplished as would be fitting for the will of God*
- G. Make it a part of your normal schedule of necessities;*
- 1. See it as important as a meal time, a bed time, getting to work on time or being anyplace else on time*
 - 2. Learn to see it as refreshing as a cold drink in a time of thirst*
 - 3. Learn to desire conversation with God more important than the most important person in your life and just as real as if you were sitting with them face to face*
 - 4. Schedule regular times to speak with Him about anything and everything all times of the day i.e. morning when rising, morning when beginning work, short break (short prayer), noon, when finishing your work, arriving home (gratitude for provision), with your family, bedtime*
 - 5. Use small prayers, uttered often, all day long; i.e. every time you are driving somewhere use short prayers to turn your vehicle into a temple of God*
 - 6. Schedule longer prayers for special times and make the time for them; prepare what you are going to say by what you have read in the Word of God and the content of your prayers through the day; Think of the amazing character and nature of God and speak to Him about it.*