



Mighty in the Word

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).*

*Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)
The Wise Still Seek Him*

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

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Pray Without Ceasing

Acts 2.42-47 comes to mind when reading I Thessalonians 5.17, "Pray without ceasing." There is great depth to ones life found in this passage.

There is much to learn from the scripture, "Pray without ceasing." First there is but one true and living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – of Israel. It is to Him we pray. I Kings 18.24 records Elijah telling the people of Samaria, to the prophets of Baal, to call upon the name of their gods while he would call upon the "name of the Lord."

In this passage, as in other scriptures, there is but one God, one true and living God.

Act 2:42 And they **continued stedfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Act 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Act 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

Act 2:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *[men]*, as every man had need.

Act 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

When I read the above there are several things that I believe will be helpful in guiding us in our prayer life: Praying without ceasing.

They continued steadfastly, they continued praying, seeking the Lord in all that they were doing in their walk with the Lord. To continue in prayer is to pray without ceasing. It is a way of life to which we are called. The above scripture, verse 42, makes it clear that they continued their praying with constancy, with steadiness of mind. Their praying was ongoing. It is in this understanding that we will look more deeply at "Pray without ceasing."

Many people misread many scriptures by reading one verse, reading out of context the book in which it is contained and out of context of the whole of the Holy Bible.

We are given Psa 5:3: "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *[my prayer]* unto thee, and will look up."

Psalm 55.17 reveals to us something of King David's prayer life, "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." Some will use this as the way and times we should pray.

As we read the Word of God, we find those whose lives were committed to the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, prayed throughout the day and night. But first let us

Jam 5:18 and he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. **(Read I Kings 18.21-40 before reading the insert.)**

Jam 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Oh the "Faith of Our Fathers," who have lived *The Way*. Oh! That we would live by their example of trusting the Lord Jesus Christ and seeking His face in prayer.

I am reminded of a martyr for Jesus Christ in the 1920's, Watchman Nee, whose young followers knew the Word of God, knew I Kings 18.21-40, and their witnessing came to a point of following the prophet, Elijah, never looking back or asking if they should endeavor such a trust level in the Lord Jesus Christ. They lived their faith in the Lord. They lived their prayer life in their walk with the Lord.

An old saying:
Prayer Changes Things.

I believe Prayer changes YOU – and ME.

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

establish that it is to the one true and living God. King David goes on to tell us in the Psalms that it is to the Lord God that he prays.

Many people whose lives are not committed to the Lord Jesus Christ talk about praying. They talk about praying, but their words are empty words going out into the thin air – perhaps hoping someone, somewhere will hear them.

Let us give thanks that we who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior know the One true God Who answers prayer. As the words to an old hymn states,

I know in Whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. (*That great and, yet, awful day to come*)

Let us establish that *praying without ceasing* is ongoing praying throughout the day and night. It is praying as we work; it is praying as we drive; it is praying as we are in the presence of others; it is praying when in the presence of the enemy – which is a lot of times as the enemy does not cease endeavoring to trouble us. It is praying when we rise for the day. It is praying "as we go." It is praying with the heart; it is praying in the Spirit.

There needs to be established times of prayer, but that is not the only time we pray, for prayer is a way of life for those who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When our hearts are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ, we are praying. When we worship the Lord, we are praying.

We need to seek the Lord in all that we do, seek Him in our daily work, offering up to Him our work for His glory that others will see Jesus in us as we go to work and are with co-workers, that we might be a witness for the Lord. Offer to the Lord the work of your hands – and all that you do and say for His glory.

As we walk with the Lord and pray without ceasing, we come to know the Lord in a greater measure, His love for us, His call upon our lives, the call to walk a life of holiness unto Him..

Some questions for you to ponder, to pray regarding what the Lord Jesus Christ is saying to you in light of His Holy Word.

Psa 5:1 <To the chief Musician upon Nehiloth, A Psalm of David.> Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. **Upon whom do you meditate?**

Psa 5:2 Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. **Upon whom do you request to hearken unto the voice of your cry? And is it daily or just when you get yourself in the miry clay?**

Psa 5:3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *[my prayer]* unto thee, and will look up. **Upon whom do you hear in the morning? From whom do you seek the way each day and hear?**

Psa 55:16 As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. **Upon whom do you call, upon whom do you lean and – upon whom do you listen for direction, guidance, solitude?**

Psa 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. **How do you get to know the Master, the Savior, the Lord, the only true and living God – if not coming aside to be in His presence?**

Psa 55:18 He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle *[that was]* against me: for there were many with me. **In whom are we trusting to deliver us from the battles of Satan and his followers?**

Psa 88:13 But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee. **To whom do you pray?**

Psa 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee *[as]* incense; *[and]* the lifting up of my hands *[as]* the evening sacrifice. **Are our prayers before the Lord as a sweet smoke**

of sacrifice? Are we offering unto the Lord thanksgiving for His goodness to us in Jesus Christ?

Mar 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. **Where do you go to be alone with the Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who loves you so much and gave His life for you?**

Mat 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. **Oh the Master, Himself, drew apart – alone. Where are you in the evenings? Doing what? When do you draw apart to be with the Lord?**

II K 19.15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest *[between]* the cherubims, thou art the God, *[even]* thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. **How often do we acknowledge the Lord God and Who He is and what He has done and is doing?**

II Ch 6.39 Then hear thou from the heavens, *[even]* from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee. **Solomon is praying for the nation and the sins of the people against the Lord God. Are we praying for our nation and the sins against the Lord God – as well as ourselves and our sins?**

II Ch 30.18 For a multitude of the people, *[even]* many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one. **Oh, hear again the prayer for another.**

II Ch 30.27 Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came *[up]* to his holy dwelling place, *[even]* unto heaven. **Are we praying for others?**

Psa 32:3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. Psa 32:4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

Psa 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Psa 32:6 For this shall **every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.**

Psa 32:7 Thou *[art]* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah

Jam 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

Jam 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Jam 5:16 Confess *[your]* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

This is written addressing the people who are endeavoring to live a life of holiness unto the Lord Jesus Christ.