**Prayer**

**Review**: Prayer **changes** things. You should live in **atmosphere** of prayer, which is an **awareness of the presence** of God. Prayer is **Communion** with God. Remember what prayer is **NOT.** When we pray we pray **to the Father in the name of Jesus**.

James told us if we are afflicted (or have **trouble) WE should pray**. Not expect someone else to pray for us. **There is some prayer that is personal and only you can do**.

He also told if we were sick (too weak) to have the elders of the church anoint us with oil and pray for our healing.

We discussed developing a **fellowship** with the Lord and not just a **relationship**.

If we **want true power in prayer**, we must cultivate deep hunger through spending time in His Word and spending time in communion with Him.

Prayer is not what you do, it is who you are. **You are NOW GOD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER**.

Effective prayer comes from **the heart not the mind**. **The Holy Spirit will teach you all things**.

**Assignment**

daily **appointment** with the Lord; reading a chapter in the Bible; spend some time **praising** the Lord; take a **notebook** and as your pray with your words or in the spirit, **make notes** of anything that you felt God was saying to you; go **expecting** to hear from Him; spend some time only **listening**.

**We ought to pray**

Luke 18:1 (MSG) Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to **pray consistently and never quit.**

(KJV) And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men **ought always to pray**, and not to faint;

(YLT) And he spake also a simile to them, **that it behoveth (us) always to pray**, and not to faint.

(AMPC) Also (Jesus) told them a parable to the effect that they **ought always to pray** and not to turn coward (faith, lose heart, and give up). In Texas terms don’t turn yeller!

How many times have you gave up? Just quit praying about something? You decided this isn’t going to work?

1 Thessalonians 5:17 **Pray without ceasing**. (or without stopping)

(YLT) **continually pray** ye;

Obviously, you don’t pray every breath you take. You are asleep part of the time, you are at work part of the time, you are eating part of the time.

Prayer is a **way of life**. We pray without stopping because we pray as a matter of lifestyle.

Ephesians 6:18 (KJV) Praying always, with **all** prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with **all** perseverance and supplication for **all** saints;

That’s a lot of ALLS. You can’t get that done in one afternoon. Or five minutes.

So here are 3 verses that tell us to pray all the time.

Prayer can’t be **a hit or miss** thing. It can’t be - pray today and then go **2 or 3 days** then 2 or 3 weeks and be effective. We must pray every day.

And it should **be focused prayer**. **Don’t be distracted**. Lynn Hammond’s said that a spiritual mentor to her said, ‘there will be distractions that come to lure you away from the secret place of the Most High. There will be interruptions that try and pull you away from your fellowship with God. But don’t give in to them. Instead, take a whip of the blood of Jesus and drive those things out of your life.’

Guard your house of prayer. Guard your time of prayer.

**So men ought to pray, and pray without ceasing, and pray with all prayer**

**Jesus as our example**

So let’s observe how Jesus did this. There is never a better example than Him. Did Jesus pray? A little bit? Or a lot? Let’s remind ourselves.

Mark 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.

So Jesus had a **practice of praying**. He evidently felt it was important. He needed to pray. And if He needed to pray? Then we need to pray.

If we want the results that Jesus got, then we **need to do what Jesus did**. We can pray like Jesus did (If we will) and we can hear from the Father like Jesus did (if we listen).

SAY: I CAN PRAY LIKE JESUS PRAYED. I CAN HEAR FROM THE FATHER LIKE JESUS HEARD FROM THE FATHER.

Jesus **prayed with purpose**, and he got **answers and results**. He **sought the Father every day** on what to do each day.

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and **continued all night** in prayer to God.

**Why would Jesus need to pray** for hours? All night long? 8 hours or more? Why would He need to?

It wasn’t because He was **begging** the Father for something.

It wasn’t because He was **slow**.

It wasn’t because He had **sin or anything wrong** in His heart.

**Because of where He was**. He was on the earth. The fallen earth. The earth that is under the curse. He was **wrestling** against powers, principalities and against rulers of the darkness of this world. Against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in **those days**, that **He went out** into a mountain **to pray,** and continued all night in prayer to God. (v13) And when it was day, He called unto Him His disciples: and of them **he chose twelve**, whom also He named apostles;

Was there a possible **connection** here? Between Him praying all night and Him knowing which twelve to pick? Was it important that **He selected the right 12 out of 12**?

When you start praying and you pray and pray and pray and it seems like hours and you look at your clock and it has been **five minutes**, you are **in the flesh**. But when you start praying and communing with God **in true fellowship** you look down and think it’s been minutes and it’s been **hours**, that’s when you are **in the Spirit**.

* Elizabeth Alves excerpt from book

When you get in communion with God and get into the Spirit, you get what they used to call **‘caught up’** because you are more in tune with the Spirit than with your flesh.

So Jesus communed with the Father all night and **when the sun came up**, He knew what to do. He knew who to choose.

**It is GOOD TO KNOW**.

**Why** do so many good church going Christians **not know**? They don’t **pray**.

**Don’t be satisfied with not knowing**. It’s **torment** to not know. Do I go or not go? Do I buy or not buy? Is this the home? The car? What do I do? Do I marry? Do I go to school here? Is this the job or not the job?

Too many Christians just **wing it**. They **might pray, Oh God help me. Thy will be done. Okay, thanks Lord.**

They haven’t prayed correctly. They haven’t listened. They haven’t persevered. Thru the noise in the world. Thru the noise in their head.

Persevere until we KNOW. We don’t have to have a vision, or an audible voice, because we have that **knowing down on the inside of us**.

For some things praying all night would seem like a small thing. To get your marriage right, to get your children right, to get your health right?

1 John 2:20 But you have an **unction from the Holy One**, and **you know ALL things**.

Unction = anointing

Jesus summed up His entire ministry by saying **I only do what I see Him do and I only say what I hear Him say.**

**Have faith in God**. Faith is what connects you to everything in the realm of the Spirit. You must simply believe that God will do what He says He will do.

James 4:8 **Draw nigh** unto God and He will draw nigh unto you.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call upon me and **I will answer you**, and show you great and might things which you know not.

**Faith is what opens the door** to God’s manifest presence in our lives and in our prayer closets.

Hebrews 11:6 (Knox-Taylor) Nobody ever reaches God’s presence until he has **learned to believe**; believe that God exists and that He reveals Himself to those who sincerely look for Him.

**As you continue** to **meditate on the promises of God and increase in your faith** to be **led by the Holy Spirit**, your ability to pray increases as well. The more you **grow in faith**, the more **deeply into your heart you can reach in and pull out the prayers** God has put inside you.

God **is big enough** to communicate and speak to you. No matter how **dense** you think you are, God **knows exactly how** to get through to your heart. He didn’t have any trouble speaking to and through a donkey in the old testament. He can sure enough handle you.

He uses many ways to speak so don’t try to limit Him to an audible voice, because that is rare. He may **bring the Word of God to your remembrance**. John 14:26 ‘The Comforter, which is the Holy Spirt, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, **and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.’**

God never intended us to watch the **news** then go and pray about what we see on TV. He sent the Holy Spirt to **show us things to come** so we could pray about those things in advance. So tune into the Holy Spirit instead of the 5 o’clock news.

John 16:14-15 The Holy Spirit will honor and glorify Me, because He will take what is Mine and will reveal (**declare, disclose, transmit**) it to you…

He **declares things to us as a knowing in our heart**. As you are praying along, fellowshipping with Him, you may suddenly **glimpse a new truth**. **An image will flash in your spirit** and will change your perception.

He transmits things **by slipping them into your thoughts** without your even realizing it. It will **float up from your heart** and you will think, where did that come from? It’s from the Holy Spirit.

**Train your heart to be constantly aware of the companionship of the Holy Spirit**. Develop yourself spiritually to the point that you **interact** with Him **not only when you read your Bible, or pray**, or go to church but also when you brush your teeth, getting dressed, driving to work, shopping, or anything else.

**When you fellowship** with the Holy Spirit, He **confides in you the longings of the Father’s heart.** He **causes God’s own dreams** to stir so strongly within you that eventually you find His **divine requests flowing from your mouth** in prayer. And when that happens, you can surely ask whatever you will and it will be done.