

Communicating with God

A study of prayer and Bible study



Taking Time to Pray

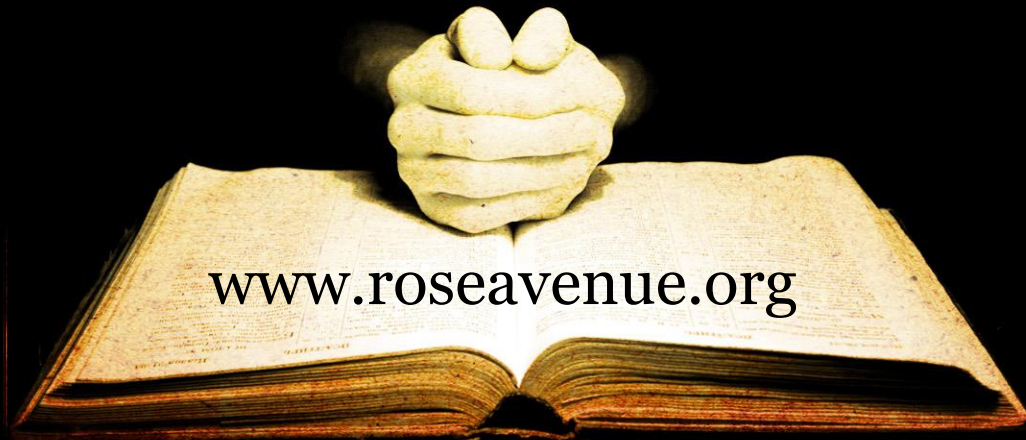
A study of prayer!



- We have addressed God's part in prayer – He is accessible, able to answer and wants us to pray to Him.
- We have also noted numerous Biblical examples of men and women who prayed – Jesus, Paul, Moses, Abraham, Hanah, Daniel, Nehemiah and David.

Prayer (11)

Taking Time to Pray



Communicating with God:
A study of Prayer & Bible Study
Our 2024 Theme



“Pray without ceasing”

- The Bible is filled with passages encouraging us to pray regularly
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**,
This does not mean that prayer is the only thing we do (we are praying 24/7/365).
- **Luke 11:1**, Jesus “ceased” praying.
- The point is we pray regularly and often. Prayer is a key part of who we are. Much like, “we eat all the time”.



“Pray without ceasing”

- The Bible is filled with passages encouraging us to pray regularly. **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**
- Be reminded that Jesus prayed often (**Luke 5:16**)
- David prayed in the morning (**Psalms 5:3**)
- Daniel prayed 3 times a day (**Dan. 6:10**)



“Pray without ceasing”

- The Bible is filled with passages encouraging us to pray regularly. **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**
- Elijah was a man of prayer (**James 5:17-18**)
- Cornelius prayed to God always (**Acts 10:2**)
- **Acts 6:4**, the apostles desired to “give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”



“Pray without ceasing”

- The Bible is filled with passages encouraging us to pray regularly
- **Ephesians 6:18**, A part of the armor of God. Communication is crucial to military success.



“Pray without ceasing”

- The Bible is filled with passages encouraging us to pray regularly
- **Colossians 4:2**, *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.*
- προσκαρτερέω (proskartereō) – “to persevere devotedly”
L&N (68.68), “to continue to do something with intense effort, with the possible implication of despite difficulty. To devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in.”



“Pray without ceasing”

- The Bible is filled with passages encouraging us to pray regularly. **Colossians 4:2**, *Continue earnestly ...*
- Found 10x in NT. 5 texts are related to prayer.
Acts 1:14, as the 120 awaited Pentecost
Acts 2:42, continued steadfastly...
prayers
Acts 6:4, the apostle's work
Romans 12:12, continuing steadfastly
in prayer



“Pray without ceasing”

- The Bible is filled with passages encouraging us to pray regularly
- **1 Peter 4:7**, *But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.*
- While the “end” is “at hand”, it “could happen at any time”, we must prepare as if it were imminent



Parables about persistence

- Jesus taught 2 prayers about being persistent in it.
- **Luke 11:1-13**, as the disciples ask Him to teach them how to pray, He begins with a “model prayer”.
- THEN, He speaks the Parable of the Persistent Friend”
- A friend arrives at midnight and the host has nothing to feed him, so he goes to his neighbor and persistently knocks until the neighbor gives him what he needs (bread).



Parables about persistence

- Jesus taught 2 prayers about being persistent in it.
Luke 11:1-13.
- Jesus is implying that if a neighbor will do that for bread, how much more will God do for you if you persist in prayer.
“Ask...Seek...Knock...”
- NOTE: God DOES care about us (**1 Peter 5:7**). He does NOT want us to “go away” but to persistently ask Him for our needs (according to His will)
- When answered do we appreciate Him?



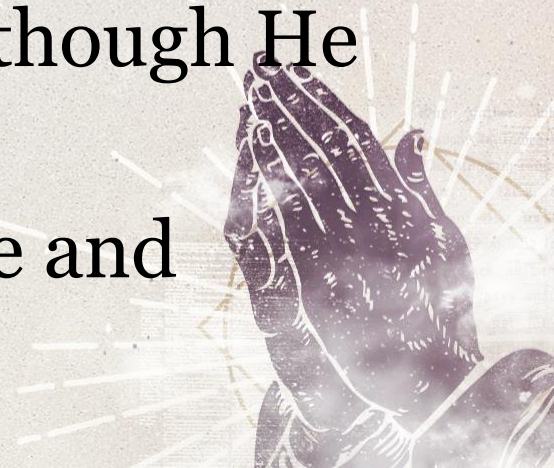
Parables about persistence

- Jesus taught 2 prayers about being persistent in it.
- **Luke 18:1-8**, Jesus is teaching “*that men always ought to pray and not loose heart.*”
- The Parable of the Unjust Judge.”
A corrupt judge who did not fear God or man, avenges a defrauded widow because of her persistence.



Parables about persistence

- Jesus taught 2 prayers about being persistent in it. **Luke 18:1-8.**
- If an unrighteous judge will avenge persistence, how much more (from lesser to greater) will God avenge those who cry out to Him “though He bears long with them”.
- He answers our prayers in His time and way. **1 John 5:14-15**



Parables about persistence

- Jesus taught 2 prayers about being persistent in it.
Luke 18:1-8.
- “He will avenge them speedily”.
God answers in His time!
Consider Abraham.
- BUT, when He does answer, it will be at the right time and in the right way.
And when we look back, we will see His wisdom, whether in this life or the next
(**cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9,**
Romans 12:19-21))



Take time to pray

- Having established that God wants us to pray persistently, we conclude by noting a few suggestions to help us with this.
 1. Pray about it! **James 1:5-6, Philippians 4:6** – is this something God wants us to learn?
 2. Set aside a specific time! Regularly and daily. Perhaps 30 minutes (to pray and read)
 3. Find a specific place free from distractions (**Matthew 6:6**)



Take time to pray

- Some suggestions to help us with this.
4. Work to make it a habit. **START** now! Good habits take time to develop. Consider a “30-day prayer challenge”.
 5. Shorter is better than skipping
 6. Make your prayers meaningful – Both general **AND** specific, personal requests, etc. (More to come!)



Take time to pray

- Some suggestions to help us with this.
7. Some have suggested a prayer journal.
Record what you are praying for and what you need to pray for. Possibly record answered prayers.
 8. Find someone close to hold you accountable.
Perhaps your spouse, parent, child, sibling, trusted friend, etc.
Someone who will weekly ask if you are praying as you should? (Not harsh judgment)



Ephesians 5:16, See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.



Do you pray as often
as you ought to?





Let us pray!