Resolving The Priority of Prayer

Greg Kline · 1 Thessalonians 5:17

INTRODUCTION

- If there is a meaning behind praying without ceasing, that means we have an attitude of prayer, a constant mindset that seeks God's wisdom, that seeks God's ways, that seeks his help.
- Sometimes we've allowed prayer to fall lower on the priority list than where it belongs.
- Sometimes we think of prayer and singing with fellow Christians as something that belongs only here in this building. And yet that's not at all what the scripture reveals.

1 We Need to Hear From God

Matthew 4:1–11

- But he answered, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.
- Three times the devil tempted him, and every time Jesus said, It is written, and he knew the scriptures.
- Jesus is the perfect example of internalizing Scripture.
- The reason it's so critical to read our Bibles, not just Sundays and Wednesdays, but every single day, is so that we will grow in understanding of what God wants for us.

2 We Need to Speak to God

1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:10–20

- We not only need to hear from God, we need to speak to God.
- Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, praying.
- Part of that armor of God in verse 18 is praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.
- You cannot be a faithful Christian and not communicate with God. It is not possible.
- When the darts are fired at you, there will be a weakness in our armor. If we are not praying at all times in the Spirit.

3 Our To-Do Lists Are Full

Matthew 13:18–23

- As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word. But the cares of this world and deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
- It doesn't mean that you're doing wrong things if you don't make the time to pray. It may be that you're not putting prayer in its first priority place.
- There's a big difference in the one who puts God first and the one who puts God in where they can.

4 We Feel Self-Sufficient

2 Chronicles 33:10–13; 2 Corinthians 3:5; Romans 1:21

- It may be that we don't pray like we should because we feel self-sufficient. Or more frankly put, we don't feel the need.
- When he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord as God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. He prayed to him.
- But we shouldn't have to get there first to realize who God is.
- Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.
- For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened.

5 Be Willing to Eliminate the Distractions

1 Thessalonians 5:17

- If we are to pray without ceasing, we have to be willing to eliminate the distractions.
- We have a lifestyle, an attitude that is focused on seeking God in prayer.
- That we can learn to pray. We can make time in the day.
- So let's not be distracted by the world. Let's focus on putting God in the place he belongs as first and only in our life.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If I choose not to make the time, what does that say about my commitment to God?**

MY NOTES