



SERIES: Living for Eternity – 1 Thessalonians

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Friday, October 27, 2023

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

TITLE: Pray Without Ceasing

Welcome to Win the Day! My name is Alex Duran and today we'll look at how the apostle Paul calls us to pray!

As we continue to learn from Paul's final instructions to the Thessalonians, I can't help but think about the practical applications these commands carry. Practical for man, but powerless without the might of God who is pleased to give when we ask. God invites us to ask so that we commune with him. So how do we respond? We pray and we do so without ceasing! 1 Thessalonians 5:17,

[Pray without ceasing.](#)

Community with God goes beyond dependency. It moves us from transactional relationships to worship. This is the most important activity within the family of God. Ministry without worship is perhaps meaningless, powerless, heartless, selfish, and unintentional. There's beauty when our hearts and minds are engaged with God because when we pray without ceasing, we can know God better. He desires a relationship with you and me, and this is where Paul is getting at. This type of prayer is continuous fellowship with God the Father, through His son, by His Spirit during the daily tasks of our lives.

I read a book where I had the opportunity to learn about the life and ministry of George Muller. He was a pastor/shepherd, an evangelist, and a mission-minded follower of Jesus better known for his work in the orphanages he founded. But to me, he was one of the most influential individuals in my life when it came to the discipline of prayer.

Muller was a man of prayer without ceasing. He prayed about everything, he prayed often. He even wrote them down with pen and paper, and he expected God to answer every single one of them. I remembered reading the story when all of the kids at the orphanage sat down at the table to have breakfast even though there was nothing to feed them.

But Muller instructed them to take a seat, close their eyes, bow their heads, and engage the Father to give thanks for the morning meal. Shortly after that, the local baker knocks on the door to give fresh bread to the kids. The milkman he drives by, his car breaks down right in front of the orphanage which provides fresh milk for all to have. Muller at one point in time said this: "I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming."

It seems that God has determined that some expression of his infinity power will be exercised in response to prayer without ceasing, and full of faith. God won't work if we don't ask. Muller didn't see prayer as an act of last resort but as an act of worship. Author, Mark Batterson says this: "The greatest tragedy in life is the prayer that go unanswered because they go unasked."

I think that the most encouraging note of this command is that we have a God who is attentive, who is listening, and who is eager to answer according to his will. So, I would want us to consider praying with persistence, holding nothing back, and even writing them down if necessary because God wants to hear from you.