

PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING...CAN YOU?!!

1Thessalonians 5:17

(17) Pray without ceasing.

HOW?!!

That's what I want to discuss with this short, and simple, Message that God has revealed to me some concepts about! I hope they will inspire you to "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!!!"

It is interesting that, as we begin to pray, MANY TIMES THERE ARISE THOUGHTS, WHILE WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO FOCUS ON GOD, whereof our hearts and minds seemingly become "distracted" with "the cares of the day," or with upcoming events we've foreseen, or by whatever we have to do within our long-range or short-term plans.

Thus, by focusing on such as that, one may feel that s/he has been "LED AWAY FROM" Prayer...by the devil, or by one's own flesh, in such cases!

HOWEVER, those "distractions" are times God gives us direction and counsel SO AS TO ORDER OUR LIVES ARIGHT; and it may well be that GOD, HIMSELF, IS INITIATING "any such distraction(s)" instead of it just being that our minds are "wandering AWAY FROM" Him!!!

Psalm 37:23

(23) The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

What that verse reveals to us is that GOD, HIMSELF, ORDERS OUR LIVES AND DELIGHTS IN OUR WAYS...STEP BY STEP BY STEP!

Romans 8:14

(14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

To "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING," one must realize, foremost, what prayer ACTUALLY IS!

Most people believe that prayer is simply TALKING TO God; in THAT respect, "praying without ceasing" would then become IMPOSSIBLE...for no one can talk 24/7/365!!!

But Prayer IS MUCH MORE THAN US TALKING!!!

We must come to realize that prayer IS A DIALOGUE – and to understand that the prefix "di" in the word "dialogue" means "TWO;" see here:

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Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers::

di- prefix

1. twice; two; double: ...

...

Etymology: via Latin from Greek, from *dis* twice, double, related to *duo* two.

Compare bi-¹

In that light, we realize that PRAYER IS A TWO-WAY CONVERSATION, not just reciting what's on our own minds to God!

Look at Philippians 4:6-7:

Philippians 4:6-7

(6) Be careful for nothing; but **in every thing by prayer and supplication** with thanksgiving **let your requests be made known unto God.**

(7) **And the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, **shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

So then, when we speak about our requests and concerns to God, HE RESPONDS providing us WITH HIS PEACE WITHIN OUR UNDERSTANDING...WHICH IS "PEACE OF MIND" ORIGINATING OR RESPONDING FROM HIM!!!

But, is THAT ALL there is from God?

Absolutely NOT!

Again:

Romans 8:14

(14) For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God**, they are the sons of God.

When we have spoken our own cares to God, He then speaks BACK to us – and He THEN LEADS US in what we are TO DO TO ADDRESS THOSE CARES!

At other times, GOD JUST SOVEREIGNLY SPEAKS TO US AND LEADS US IN HIS WILL AND WAYS!

"PRAYER," in THAT light, therefore, BECOMES MORE THAN A DIALOGUE **OF MERE WORDS**, BUT, MOREOVER, **"PRAYER" ACTUALLY BEGETS OBEDIENT RESPONSIVENESS TO WHAT GOD SAYS TO US:**

PRAYER IS THEN GOD TELLING US:

WHAT WE ARE TO DO, OR NOT TO DO;

WHERE WE ARE TO GO, OR NOT TO GO;

WHAT WE ARE TO SAY, OR TO ABSTAIN FROM SAYING;

ETCETERA, ETCETERA!!!

When we LISTEN to what He says to us, we have only BEGUN to pray; rather, when we DO what God says to us, we have ACTED IN PRAYER to Him!!!

See this in these verses, provided in context:

James 1:22-25

- (22) But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving your own selves.
- (23) **For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer**, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
- (24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
- (25) But **whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, *this man shall be blessed in his deed.***

THEREFORE, WHEN WE DILIGENTLY LISTEN TO GOD, AND OBEY HIS VOICE – THUS ATTENDING TO HIS PRAYER COMMUNICATION(S) UNTO EACH ONE OF US ALL – THEN WE ARE BEING “LED BY GOD” AS HIS CHILDREN; AND THEN WE SHALL BE BLESSED BY GOD!

THEREBY, WE ARE, AND EVER SHALL BE, “PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING!!!

Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II

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