

Message Four (d)
Persevering in Prayer

"Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens. For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst." (Matthew 18:19-20) Recovery Version

"Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon." (Daniel 2:17-18) Recovery Version

- A. To have a prayer partner (or partners) not only can help us to pray better but also can help to sustain our prayer life—Matt. 18:19-20; Dan. 2:17-23.

"Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving," (Colossians 4:2) Recovery Version

“Concerning persevering in prayer, I wish to say once again that we need to be willing to make a deal with the Lord, even to make a vow to Him, that we shall be a praying people. If all the saints in all the churches make such a deal with the Lord, the recovery will be greatly enriched and uplifted. Furthermore, the saints will enjoy the Lord, His presence, and His instant and constant anointing. All day long, they will enjoy the smile of the Lord’s face. As we persevere in prayer, the living Person of Christ becomes our experience and enjoyment” (*Life-study of Colossians*, p. 584).

II. Colossians, a book on Christ as the Head, and Ephesians, a book on the Body of Christ, both end with the same charge to pray; Ephesians 6:18 says, “By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints”:

- A. According to the revelation of Ephesians, we have to pray at every time in order to have the Body life in reality; to have the church life depends on our continual prayer.
- B. *All prayer* means all kinds of prayers—short prayers, long prayers, loud prayers, silent prayers, public prayers by a number of saints, private prayers by ourselves, etc.
- C. *Watching unto this* means that we need to be on the alert for the maintaining of a prayer life.
- D. *All perseverance* means that we have to persist and insist to the uttermost; this indicates that there may be something holding us down, holding us back, suppressing, oppressing, depressing, and hindering us from prayer, so we have to persevere and not give up.

III. “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”—Matt. 26:41:

- A. When the Lord Jesus went to pray, Peter and the others went to sleep; when the Lord Jesus told them to watch, He meant, “Don’t sleep! Wake up!”
- B. According to the Lord’s word in Matthew 26:41, we are all sleepy persons; if we do not sleep physically, we sleep either psychologically or spiritually.
- C. To sleep psychologically means that our mind, attention, hearing, and realization are absent; to sleep spiritually means that our perception is dormant.
- D. To be a person who prays unceasingly, we must be watchful persons, persons fully awakened, fighting against our sleeping nature and our sleeping being.
- E. Paul’s speaking in Colossians 4:2 and Ephesians 6:18 corresponds with the Lord’s word in Matthew 26:41; in addition to telling us to watch, the Lord said, “The spirit is willing,” and Paul says, “Praying at every time in spirit.”

- F. We have to let our spirit rise up over our body and our psychology; then we can pray, and we can watch unto prayer in the way of all petition.
- G. The more we pray, the more we will have to pray, the more we will like to pray, and the more we will be able to pray; to be watchful helps us to build up a habit of prayer.
- H. We have to fight against the threefold sleep: physical, psychological, and spiritual.

"Unceasingly pray," (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Recovery Version

- I. To live Christ, to practice being one spirit with the Lord, is by our continual and unceasing prayer (1 Thes. 5:17); to have such a prayer life, we all must learn to watch, to be on the alert, to be awake; the habit of living Christ must be the habit of prayer.
- J. All day long we should call on the Lord and talk to Him; this is to pray unceasingly, which is to breathe and live spiritually, and to live spiritually is just to live Christ— *Hymns*, #255.

*O Lord, breathe Thy Spirit on me,
Teach me how to breathe Thee in;
Help me pour into Thy bosom
All my life of self and sin.*

*I am breathing out my sorrow,
Breathing out my sin;
I am breathing, breathing, breathing,
All Thy fulness in.*

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