

Philippians 4:4-9
“Rejoice in the Lord”
“Everything by Prayer”

Background Scripture: *And He spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought to always pray, and not to faint [Luke 18:1]*

Note: Jesus was concerned that His followers pray continually in order to accomplish the will of God for their lives. From this parable of the persistent widow, we learn several things **(1)** We must persevere in prayer with regard to all matter until Jesus returns. **(2)** In this life we have an adversary, Satan prayer can protect us from the evil one. **(3)** In our prayers, we should cry out against sin and for justice. **(4)** Persistent prayer is counted as faith. **(5)** In the final days before Christ’s return, there will be increased diabolic opposition to the prayers of the faithful. Because Satan and the pleasures of the world, many will cease persevering in prayer.

[vs. 2-8]

Note: God’s true chosen ones (i.e., those persevering in faith and holiness) will never cease crying out for God for Christ’s return to destroy Satan’s power and the present evil world system. They will persevere in prayer for God to “avenge them speedily” **(sv.8)**, and for Christ to reign in righteousness, knowing that’s Christ’s coming is the only hope for this world.

Day/Night

[Daniel 6:10]: *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

[Acts 16:25-26]: *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bands were loosed.*

Effective Prayer

[James 5:16]: *Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avail much.*

Anna the Prophetess

[Luke 2:36-37]: *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age and live with a husband seven years from her*

virginity: and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fasting's and prayers night and day.

Corporate Payer

[Acts 12:5; 12]: *Peter was kept in prison: but payer was made without ceasing by the church unto God for him. And when he considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.*

Binding/Loosing

[Matthew 16:19]: *And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

Note: In the Spirit-filled proclamation of the gospel, the church has been given the keys (authority) to bind demons and disease and to loose prisoners from sin, addictions and sickness from their bondage and captivity unto salvation (just as Jesus did while on earth). The binding and loosing is an already accomplished provision, because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, that is now released on earth through the church to those who will believe in Christ unto salvation.

Final Thought: *Howbeit this kind goes not out but by prayer and fasting.* [Matthew 17:21]