

FINDING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD... TOGETHER!



Gathering at 502 Pike Street, Superior MT

TITLE: BIBLICAL LIFE-WORDS: Living by God's Word: **PRAY**
TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 5:17
DATE: 22 January 2023

Sermon Series For 2023:
2 Timothy 3:16-17

*¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

Biblical Life-Words: Week 1: SEEK; Week 2: TRUST

Biblical Life-Word for This Week: "**PRAY.**"

General Definition: "To come before God to ask with *earnestness with zeal*, as a favor, for something desirable; to *entreat, request with supplication*; also known as a *petition*; a *personal conversation* with your Heavenly Father!

We return to our basic outline to which we study week after week for each word: (1) **LOOK**; (2) **LEARN**; (3) **LIVE OUT**. So let's begin!

[1] **LOOK:** at our **Biblical Life-Word** for Week by reading a number of Biblical references: Let's meet God Together in His Word!

Genesis 20:17-18: So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. ¹⁸ For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife

Exodus 33:13-14: ¹³ Now therefore, I (Moses) pray Thee (God), if I have found grace in Thy sight, shew me now Thy way, that I may know Thee, that I may find grace in Thy sight: and consider that this nation is Thy people. ¹⁴ And He (God), said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

Judges 16:28: And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

1 Samuel 1:10, 27: ¹⁰ And she (Hannah), was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. ²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of Him:

1 Kings 9:3: ³ And the LORD said unto him (Solomon), I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before Me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put My name there forever; and Mine eyes and Mine heart shall be there perpetually.

2 Chronicles 7:14: If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Nehemiah 1:4, 11: ⁴ And it came to pass, when I (Nehemiah), heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, ¹¹ O LORD, I beseech Thee, let now Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servant, and to the prayer of Thy servants, who desire to fear Thy name: and prosper, I pray Thee, Thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

Job 42:10: And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Psalms 5:2-3: ² Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto Thee will I (David), pray. ³ My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee and will look up.

Psalms 54:2: Hear my prayer, O God; and hide not Thyself from my supplication...

Psalms 55:17: Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice.

Proverbs 15:29: The Lord is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Jonah 2:7: Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly.

Matthew 5:44: ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 6:5-7, 9: ⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

Matthew 9:38: Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.

Matthew 14:23: And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, He was there alone.

Matthew 21:13: And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Luke 11:1: And it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 18:1: And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint...

Acts 2:42: And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 6:4: But we (early church in Jerusalem) will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Ephesians 6:18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Philippians 4:6: Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Colossians 1:3: We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

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

1 Peter 3:12: For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

[2] **LEARN** about our word for the week by focusing on **3 LEARNING STEPS**:

Learning Note 1: SELECT one passage on which to focus:

Selected verse: **1 Thessalonians 5:17: Pray without ceasing.**

This is an extremely important word of **encouragement** and **instruction!**

Learning Note 2: STUDY our selected passage:

Oh, by the way a great reminder of why we study the Bible is found in

Ps 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. "

"Get into the Word, so the Word can get into you!"

Study Point 1: The connection between the ongoing *presence of joy* in verse 16 and the instruction of *praying without ceasing* in verse 17 is a constant awareness and communication with God.

Study Point 2: Praying without ceasing does not mean nonstop praying. This verse speaks to 3 things: An ever-abiding presence of God; a constant awareness of God's power; and an unending alignment to God's plan.

Study Point 3: Prayer is at its core an ongoing conversation with your Lord! This praying does not necessitate a bowing of the head or closing of the eyes; it can be expressed out loud or within your own heart and mind! Yes, you can pray while driving—just keep your eyes on the road!

J. V. McGee: "This has to do with an attitude of prayer. I don't think this means that one is to stay on his knees all the time. But it means to pray regularly and to be constantly in the attitude of prayer."

Expositors: "The way to rejoice evermore is to pray without ceasing. We should rejoice more if we pray more. We should keep up scheduled times for prayer and continue instant in prayer. We should pray always, and not faint: pray without weariness, and continue in prayer, till we come to that world where prayer shall be swallowed up in praise."

"The meaning is not that men should do nothing but pray, but that nothing else we do should hinder prayer in its proper season. Prayer will help forward and not hinder all other lawful business, and every good work."

Learning Note 3: Summarize the Passage:

Summary Statement 1: Prayer is always God's invitation to bring you into His presence, power and plan. It always reminds you that there's only One true God and you're not Him!

Summary Statement 2: Praying is always a testimony to the fact that you are choosing to SEEK God, to TRUST in God, and to show that knowing God is all about a personal relationship and NOT anything about a religion!

Summary Statement 3: Praying points to the truth given in 1 John 5:14-15: ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.

[3] **LIVE OUT** our Biblical Life-Word for the Week with 3 Steps of Action:

Action Step One:

Plan to *Pray Without Ceasing* Because You Want To!

Action Step Two:

Plan to *Pray Without Ceasing* Because You Have To!

Action Step Three:

Plan to *Pray Without Ceasing* Because You Get To!

CONCLUSION

Remember to constantly participate in an "attitude of Prayer".