1Thess 51

Accurate, consistent prayer matters.

Let’s open up in 1Thessolonians chapter three and pick up where we had left off before our series on faith-rest.

1Thes 3:4 For even when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it happened, as you know.

[1Th 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/5/s_1114005) For this reason, when I could no longer endure *it,* I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be for nothing.

This led us into a deeper look at the Faith-rest drill.

All Bels need to learn application of faith rest, it is a powerful problem solving tool that was given to us for protection and growth.

[1Th 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/6/s_1114006) But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also *long to see* you,

[1Th 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/7/s_1114007) for this reason, brothers *and sisters,* in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;

[1Th 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/8/s_1114008) for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.

[1Th 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/9/s_1114009) For what thanks can we give to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice because of you before our God,

[/1Th 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/10/s_1114010) as **we keep praying most earnestly night and day** that we may see your faces, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?\

You are going to see the importance in a strong prayer life beginning in this message today.

[1Th 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/11/s_1114011) Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you;

The Doctrine of Prayer is one of the more powerful ones in relation to Bels after they have begun to grow past basic salvation doctrines.

First let us look at how the Apostle Paul is leading up to a series of talking points all highlighting prayer.

/1Thes 3:7 — The Apostle Paul was comforted by the fact that they were using the faith-rest technique. The report reached the Apostle Paul about these new Bels applying BD and it gave him great comfort and joy. Part of the basic skill set of faith rest requires not only rebound prayer. But basic communication prayer to get your balance after adversity hits.\

Look at verse 8 *—"if you stand firm in the Lord.”* *“We live”* meaning we are enthusiastic about your growth.

We might even say, *“Now we are enthusiastic, if you stand firm*.”

/1Thes 3:8 - *if you stand firm* –

***IF***, is a first class condition — if and it is true that you are standing firm. Also, a present tense - *stand firm,* they kept on standing firm! Which means to stabilize yourself under pressure to have balance during adversity. This was because they also had used prayer with faith rest. \

Then the Apostle Paul makes it very clear that first of all he is thankful, and this thanksgiving is an expression of his inner happiness, his inner joy at getting this positive news from Timothy.

1Thes 3:10 — the persistence of prayer is noted as Paul writes “*Night and day*”.

— as a result of this positive report what he is going to do is pray in a persistent fashion for the Thessalonians.

Later on, in chapter five when he says to the Thessalonians, “*Pray without ceasing”* he had already given them an example right here.

The word *“pray”* is in a present tense, the Apostle Paul is going to keep on praying for them and adding them into his prayer list.

The Apostle Paul will personally be benefited by praying for them, as well as the benefit of the prayer going toward their life.

/Prayer benefit, if done in the right fashion benefits both parties. The Bel who is praying for others, if in the new nature motivated by BD, is recognized in spiritual warfare as a prayer warrior. Then the benefit of having mature Bels pray for you is powerful for those receiving that blessing.\

The purpose of the Apostle Paul’s prayer had two layers within it: First of all, that he might have the opportunity of coming back to see them again, to be with them — “*that we might see your face.”* Paul is praying consistently that God will open the door so that he can personally return to Thessalonica.

GOD is the one who will choose not Paul.

The second reason for the consistency of prayer was that he might be able to get back to them for not only fellowship, but to teach them more doctrine for spiritual growth.

He realized that the majority of Bels in Thessalonica were handling the pressures of life and even unjust treatment because of their new found beliefs.

They were using the techniques he had taught them, that they continued in faith-rest was impressive.

 REPEAT

 /1Thes 3:10 - *may complete* (*katartizō*) *what is lacking in your faith?*

The word, *katartizō* – *to make perfect,* means to supply an army with equipment. To bring strength to that unit.\ (KAT-ART-ZA-O)

It means to equip or provide weapons, it means to provide ammunition, food, uniforms. To bring into perfection or power.

The Apostle Paul is saying I am consistently praying… “*to come and give you information, provide doctrine, so that you can continue to be effective in combat as you have in the past.”*

He wants to equip them so that they can go forward as positive Bels in a lost and dying world.

Jump over to Hebrews chapter seven RF.

/The prayers of the Apostle Paul reflect his super-grace life. He had a genuine heart for others and was laser focused on his calling inside the plan of God. His prayers were consistent with his position in Christ. He was not going to repetitively pray for something outside his current calling in God’s plan.\

The Apostle Paul was going to have a concentrated focus of prayer on Thessalonica and his return visit back there.

His prayers over the course of the following days after this letter went out, would be on Thessalonica.

/It is the ministry of our Royal Priesthood that prayer should be developed. We do not offer gifts and sacrifices for sins because our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ offered Himself as the one sacrifice for sins. The Levitical priesthood was based on a natural generation while the royal priesthood is based on regeneration. Our ministry is of true spiritual power not ritual.\

The Levitical Order served a wonderful purpose of example and teaching.

We are in union with the HIGH Priest.

A priest is an office of humanity with the power of GOD upon that office. The office calls for proper protocol – the right thing done in the right way.

TLJC is our role model and we must first recognize HIS priesthood.

It is the priesthood of Jesus Christ that enables all Bels to be effective prayer warriors.

Heb 7:24 Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

The reference to Melchizedek is an example.

This was a man of God who held a kingship and a priesthood ordained by God.

He had no historical beginning or ending, though it is probably an educated guess that he was a man of God who was born of natural parents and died at some point. His history is hidden so it appears as if he has no beginning or no ending and that is accurate in relation to TLJC.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ ensured HE remains the High Priest for all of eternity.

Because HE sat down at the right hand of the heavenly throne HIS priesthood established our prayer life and our royal priesthood forever.

/[Heb 7:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/7/25/s_1140025) Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them**.

Prayers for the saints, protection for Bels. Which we always have working in our favor.\

Our own prayer life should reflect intercessory prayers for other people as well. Especially those of the RF of God.

Mature Bels understand and apply intercessory prayer habitually.

[Heb 7:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/7/26/s_1140026) For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens;

Jump over to Luke chapter 22 RF.

/Because Jesus Christ is seated in power and authority in heaven we are protected and connected to God. Our prayer life which stems from our priesthood is a direct pipeline to the throne room. Concentration, focus and serious intent should always be our formula in prayer.\

Your priesthood is a direct connection to Christ on the throne in heaven, therefore your prayer life is something to be taken seriously.

First and foremost find the confidence that you not only have a direct line to heaven, you have your future HUSBAND The Lord Jesus Christ praying on your behalf.

/Luk 22:40 Now when He arrived at the place, He said to them, “**Pray that you do not come into temptation.**” 41 And **He withdrew from them** about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and *began* to pray,

Prayer is not a problem-solving device. Yet, praying for guidance and strength in the face of temptation or distractions is always a wise move.\

All Bels need to know when the distractions arrive and temptation is knocking on your door, praying for strength or discernment is called for.

You are not praying for removal you are praying for clarity!

Notice, Jesus moved away from the Apostles because HE needed to get focused and concentrate on HIS prayer.

Many times, prayer is a private matter.

When it is not a prayer for a meal or a group prayer to help someone – it usually means it is a private matter.

This is a great example of prayer under adverse circumstances. It was done in the humanity of Christ.

[/Luk 22:42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/22/42/s_995042) saying, “**Father, if You are willing**, remove this cup from Me; **yet not My will**, but Yours be done.”

All prayer is addressed to the Father through the power of the Spirit in the name of the SON. Serious prayer like this, addresses your concern yet recognizes God’s will shall be done.\

Jesus Christ would pray directly through the ministry of the HS and HE had no need to name and cite sin, nor finish the prayer in HIS own name.

But the intensity of the circumstance and the method Jesus prayed is a lesson for all Bels.

Jesus did not cry out to remove the coming cross or any of the suffering or humiliation.

He simply stated IF – it can be removed, yet YOUR will shall be done.

 REPEAT

God expects that from time to time during a difficult adversity that we will pray for an out.

But the concept is the mature Bel realizes God’s plan must be fulfilled and we do not cry out to be removed as a problem solving skill.

We pray for the guidance and strength to get through it - if it is not in HIS plan to remove it.

[Luk 22:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/22/43/s_995043) Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

[Luk 22:44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/22/44/s_995044) And being in agony, He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

This was obviously an extreme case and it is left for our example.

We will close today in Matthew chapter six.

/Protocol in prayer matters because the immature Bel is the one who haphazardly cries out in prayer when pressure arrives. They often pray about self, needs or desires and seeking avenues out of testing or adversity. Jesus (humanity) left great examples of prayer in HIS earthly ministry.\

What some religions have done is try to mimic a prayer in scripture and just mindlessly repeat the prayer when it was never designed for that.

The prayer example in the Garden of Gethsemane was for extreme circumstances, yet it remained within a certain protocol of God’s plan.

Jesus was responding emotionally yet it never overwhelmed HIM during the protocol of the prayer.

In Matthew chapter six, Jesus is actually pointing out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in relation to prayer;

Mat 6:5 “And when you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they will be seen by people. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

Your prayer life is not to show how spiritual you are.

It is not designed as an escape route every time challenges arise.

It is for the most part – a personal fellowship, communication to GOD.

/[Mat 6:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/6/6/s_935006) “But as for you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and **pray to your Father** who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

The Jews in the OT, always prayed to the one who was speaking to them now, the God of Israel, Jesus Christ. \

We in the CA speak directly to God the Father. Jesus Christ seated at the right hand of the Father ensures the prayer is directed toward God the FATHER.

It is a private matter and God will handle it in HIS timing & HIS way!

Notice again, to take prayer serious and get yourself in a place of serenity and alone - so you can focus.

Other than praying over a dinner table or praying with a group for healing or helping another Bel, your prayer life is a very intimate and private matter.

/[Mat 6:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/6/7/s_935007) “And **when you are praying**, **do not use thoughtless repetition** as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.

*When you are praying* (present tense) meaning this should be a lifestyle practice.\

Bels need to get in the habit of not only praying but praying under the right protocol of prayer.

I want to close today covering a few important principles about prayer.

We will carry on next message looking at the rest of Matthew six related to prayer protocol.

This will probably be 3-part series on the doctrine prayer.

/Mat 6:7 - use meaningless (thoughtless) repetition-

*Battalogeō,* stammering speech, words in repetition which cause confusion. Repeating without deeper meaning or real content.\

BATTLE-A-GAYO, means speaking in an empty or vain fashion over and over again.

Too many Christians have a prayer life that is nothing but hollow repetition instead of substance and power.

A powerful two-minute prayer with substance and focus under the right protocol - is better than a 20 minute chant of repetitive nonsense.

/God does not answer repetitive words or requests that are outside HIS plan.

God does not answer on the basis of demands or repetition just because you are a Believer.

God does not answer words or thoughts that are in the flesh.

God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek HIM (BD and the filling of the HS).\