1Thess #126

Continual prayer is a dialogue with God.

We will open in 1Thessalonians chapter five where we left off.

I want to open with a very exciting announcement – we have a congregation member who is very generous and wants to remain anonymous. They are offering plane tickets and hotel fees for a couple who may be struggling to make it to the November Bible Conference.

This is an offer for a couple or small family of two children and two adults or possibly just two adults.

This is for those who are in a financial pinch and they want to come to the Bible Conference.

I will be facilitating this process and I am going to make sure it is handled right. So, you have to contact me in the next few weeks and give me the information of where you are flying from.

The Bible Conference flyers are in the mail and you should also be seeing the flyer in emails as well.

1Thess 5:15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek what is good for one another and for all people.

[1Th 5:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/16/s_1116016) Rejoice always,

Learn Godly contentment which is true happiness.

The Apostle Paul is wishing these Bels gain maturity and keep the momentum going so they can find the true happiness God desires for them.

/[1Th 5:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/17/s_1116017) pray without ceasing,\

[1Th 5:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/18/s_1116018) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Now in this next set of lessons we can take a good look at the doctrine of prayer. This statement the Apostle Paul makes would be impossible if you truly do not understand what he is teaching.

He is actually pointing to an ongoing dialogue with God in our daily life that does not always demand you are on your knees in prayer.

/1Thess 5:17 *proseuchomai* *adialeiptōs*

Supplication, worship and prayer, this is pointing to a lifestyle of continual communication with God.\

PROS-QUES-OMY, points to worship and prayer.

ADD-EE-US-OH, without ceasing, to remain uninterrupted.

No one can continually pray because we all have commitments and schedules in our day-to-day life. So, the true call of 1Thess 5:17 – points to having daily communication with GOD.

 REPEAT

/Prayer is extremely important and it should be a mindset of habitually speaking with GOD. Going to the throne of God in prayer or in Bible study is two of the most vital communications we have with GOD. Making sure your fellowship is in order is key to any form of communication or worship with God.\

/Worship is seen in prayer, Bible study, righteous deeds (new nature), stepping forward in your ministry or calling. Worship is seen in how you apply BD and allow that doctrine to saturate your soul which in turn changes your life. Worship can be seen in details of your life that reflect the nature of Christ.\

The Bel who takes their relationship with God serious will begin to have an intimacy with GOD, where they have conversations of prayer and communication throughout every day of their life.

/To be continually in communication with God is a sign of maturity. Your thoughts, actions and prayers habitually seek God’s wisdom and God’s touch. This is related to a lifestyle because no one can remain in a state of prayer 24/7. Though most Christians should be willing to increase prayer time and have specific schedules of prayer in their life as they grow, the relationship with GOD should always be ‘ON’. \

What this means is a state of consistent God consciousness throughout your day.

Mature Bels have a lifestyle of living in the WORD of God, therefore their communication with GOD is very vivid and constant.

 REPEAT

Most Bels do not understand what blocks a good prayer life.

This is not complicated to understand, it is just that must Christians do not want to study the WORD of God and fully grasp what the Bible teaches about fellowship and prayer.

I am going to go down a very important list of reasons that prayers may be hindered in a Bels life. I will have a scripture for each to back up what the principle points out.

One of the first areas a Bel needs to examine about their prayer life is their faith.

/Mat 21:22 “And **whatever you ask in prayer, believing,** you will receive it all.

Rom 14;23 But **the one who doubts** is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; **and whatever is not from faith is sin**.\

Lack of faith is a big culprit behind prayers falling short of the throne room of God.

Jump over to James chapter four RF.

Now GOD is omnipotent and omnipresence, so HE hears everything. Yet GOD is of GOD order and justice, He is a God who respects the right thing done in the right way. So, faith is a key component in spiritual growth and spiritual communication.

 REPEAT

Selfishness and bitterness are sins that not only destroy our spiritual walk they drive a huge wedge between God and mankind. Because often times a person who displays selfish attitudes and pettiness or bitterness has deeper problems within their soul structure.

Most scholars agree this is written for the Jewish Bels in Jerusalem and it was written by Jesus’s brother James, not the Apostle James.

Jesus’s brother James became a BEL after the resurrection TLJC. James became a pastor-teacher in Jerusalem very early in the formation of the church. He had a ministry to convert Jewish people and really to wake up the Jewish Bels who were going back into rituals of Judaism.

This is one of the reasons his teaching was focused on application not legalism or rituals. James had a strong ministry in relation to what the Christian walk looks like in the application stage.

The teaching of James is often taken out of context and turned into a works program. It is not be viewed as that, it is to be viewed as what a Christian does as they grow and apply BD to their life.

Jas 4:1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is the source not your pleasures that wage war in your body’s parts?

There is a belief that a handful of legalistic Jewish Bels were trying to usurp James’s authority in the early church.

This began a ripple of rumors and strife among the congregation.

/[Jas 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/4/2/s_1150002) **You lust and do not have**, *so* you commit murder. And **you are envious** and cannot obtain, *so* **you fight and quarrel**. You do not have because you do not ask.

Most of this is written in a present tense, active voice and indictive mood. Meaning this was ongoing and they were the culprits promoting this attitude! \

James is stating that a certain group was responsible, he was addressing this right at them and they kept on bringing problems to the congregation.

/Bels who have stepped backward in their spiritual walk often allow emotions and pettiness to creep in. Because any form of reversionism opens a doorway for the arrogant complex of sins to be reintroduced into a person’s life. This will inevitably destroy fellowship with God and other Bels. \

James actually points to the problem these Bels are bringing upon themselves.

/[Jas 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/4/3/s_1150003) **You ask and do not receive**, because **you ask with the wrong motives**, so that you may spend *what you request* on your pleasures.

Being out of fellowship and then allowing bitterness or selfishness to creep back in, ensures your prayer life and communication with GOD is nullified.\

James was dealing with the group of Bels who had brought strife into the Jerusalem congregation. They were in reversionism and actively undermining the teaching of the Apostles.

/[Jas 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/4/4/s_1150004) You adulteresses, **do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?** Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

This speaks directly to Bels out of fellowship who have embraced cosmic viewpoint. There is no way a Bel accepting fellowship with the cosmic system can have fellowship with GOD.\

[Jas 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/4/5/s_1150005) Or do you think that the Scripture says to no purpose, “He jealously desires the Spirit whom He has made to dwell in us”?

The HS is actually grieving in a carnal Bel.

James is stating the word of GOD points us to the power of GOD the HS. When we do not apply the filling power of the HS, we only have an indwelling of the Spirit. Meaning our fellowship is out of order and the OSN is given authority.

/Psa 66:18 If **I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;** 19 But God has heard; **He has given attention to the sound of my prayer**.

A carnal Bel will have a very unsuccessful prayer life.\

Bels who reject the filling power of God the HS have turned their backs on God’s justice system, which is what got them saved in the first place.

You have no grace plan for mankind without God’s justice system.

/Eph 6:18 With every prayer and request, **pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and *every* request for all the saints

God recognizes the right thing, done in the right way! \

Bels who have a lack of compassion and have hidden issues of greed, hinder their spiritual walk and certainly their prayer life.

/Prov 21:13 **One who shuts his ear to the outcry of the poor** Will also call out himself, and **not be answered**. 14 A gift in secret subdues anger, And **a
bribe**in an inside pocket, **strong wrath**.

Lack of compassion and greed or corruption drives a wedge between a Bel and GOD.\

Lack of domestic peace within a marriage brings problems for the Bel;

/1Pet 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, *since she is* a woman; and **show her honor** as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that **your prayers will not be hindered**.

Bucking the divine establishments and protocol for authority, as well as disrespect for the divine principles of marriage, ensure an obstacle in prayer.\

This goes for both husbands and wives.

God established divine institutions - we are to uphold them in a fashion that brings honor to each other. Which in turn brings glory to GOD.

Pride or self-righteousness can bring a blockade in between the Bel and God.

/Job 35:12 “There they cry out, but **He does not answer because of the pride
of evil people**. 13 “**God certainly will not listen to an empty** *cry,* Nor will the Almighty regard it.

Self-righteousness and pride get in the way of successful prayer.\

Lack of obedience to the protocol plan of God for CA Bels is another issue;

/1Jhn 3:22 and whatever we ask, we receive from Him, because **we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight**.

When a Bel knows the doctrine and knows the right thing to do, yet ignores it, they willingly are sinning and this hinders prayers. \

When a Bel wants to manipulate the plan of GOD for something outside the will of GOD, it will never be heard.

/1Jhn 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**

Prayers and manipulation of God’s word which do not align with accurate BD will always fall short of success for the Bel.\

Let me close with this one.

The words of Jesus Christ HIMSELF, ring true for one of the biggest problems for unanswered prayers;

/Mat 6:14“For **if you forgive other people for their offenses**, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 “But **if you do not forgive *other* people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.**

This means anyone (Bel or Unbel) you hold a hidden grudge toward could be a reason your prayer life is invalid. \

My personal opinion is the big three are probably lack of forgiveness…exactly what Jesus warned against.

The second, is probably the fact that most Bels still have a love affair with the cosmic system. They remain on the fence one foot in the plan of GOD…one foot happily in the cosmic system.

The last reason I believe is…a disrespect and lack of attention to God’s 4 divine establishments. Free will, Christian Marriage, the Christian Family and Nationalism.