

CONSISTENT PRAYER

A Conversation
with God



PRECEPT

JOHN 14:13-14

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

MATTHEW 7:7-8

⁷ Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

PROMISE

We are to pray continuously as we go through life. Paul tells the believers at Thessalonica to "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*" (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18). Praying constantly can be viewed as a style of prayer in which we learn to develop an ongoing, relational conversation with God throughout our day. It is that in everything we do, we have a constant consciousness of the presence of God in our lives from the time we wake up until the last moment as we go to sleep. It is that in everything we think of, we ascribe or accredit them to the Lord.

To pray without ceasing in a continual conversation with God does not mean we sprint off to find a small closet at work or run to a bathroom stall in a store to pray for a few moments. We don't drop to our knees and pray during a business meeting or class lecture. And we certainly don't close our eyes and pray as we drive. Rather, we train ourselves to be in an attitude of prayer in which we talk and listen to God through silent prayers (or quiet prayers, if no one is around) throughout our busy days.

As we dive right into this year and persist in our prayers, may we always remember that our prayers must be confident, constant, and consistent. As children of God, we have a guarantee that our Father in heaven will grant us whatever we ask for according to His will. If nothing is happening with your situation yet, remember what Matthew 19:26 says, "*With God all things are possible.*"

CONSISTENT. Remember that we are in a battle not just "*against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*" (Ephesians 6:12). We are to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people (Ephesians 6:18).

PERSISTENT. In Matthew 7:7-8, Jesus reassured His disciples that God welcomes prayer and urges them to come to Him regularly, consistently, and persistently. This is more emphasized by the tenses of the verbs in the Amplified Bible version "*Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you.*" We are to take part and do our best. Persistence does not only mean we pray with tenacity and determination, but should involve taking notice of the signs God is showing and the corresponding work that needs to be acted upon.

REPENT. We are to examine our hearts as we come to the Father. If there is any hint of selfishness, pride, arrogance, greed, anger, hatred, jealousy, envy, impure thought, or any negativity that manifest when we pair our heart with any of the prayer item, goal, dream in our list, we must take it to the Lord right away. Let us repent, confess whatever that ill-feeling is, and ask God's forgiveness.

Continual prayer allows us throughout our day to follow God, live in joy, overcome anxiety, express our gratitude, and experience His presence in any circumstance.

PRACTICE

1. Unceasing Prayer. What do you usually do first when facing a unforeseen situation? In what ways can prayer become your first and natural response to all situations (including times of rejoicing)?

2. Consistent Prayer. What are some creative ways you can utilize to develop the discipline of praying without ceasing?

PRAYER

I. Missionaries

- Pray that we will take part of the going, sending, and supporting of God's missionaries.

II. Unity

- Pray that no division will ever pervade our church. May His church be one of peace and unity.

III. Gospel

- May we consistently study the Word of God and pray for opportunities to share it to others.

IV. Circles

- May God give our youth and singles wisdom as they make important decisions in life.

V. Young Couples

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples groups: Oliveros, Imperial, & Gumasing.

VI. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo & Ico.

VII. South Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the South groups: Drapeza & Tablan.