

November 14, 2010

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Monday

1Th. 5:17-18 ...pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

"Without ceasing," what does it mean? It means that you are to pray for a lifetime, never letting the business of your schedule or the laziness of your heart become an excuse. Have you ceased to pray? Begin again today. What does it mean to pray without ceasing? It means to continually pray, to make prayer as much a part of your life as eating or breathing. Times of formal prayers, devotional prayers at set apart times are important; but prayer is also a conversation to be held with God throughout the day. Pray while you drive, as you walk, when you ponder, when thanks wells up in your heart. Pray without ceasing.

Tuesday

2Chr. 7:14 **If** my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray...

The divine "if" is a powerful incentive to prayer. God binds Himself with His promises. He says, if my people will pray I will bring blessing and healing. If my people will seek me they shall find me. If my people will delight in Me, I will give them the desires of their heart. If my people will draw near to me, I will draw near to them. Here then is the issue. Claim the promises of God by making prayer (specific prayer) a part of your daily habit. God awaits your prayer that He might move mightily according to His promises.

Wednesday

1Kings 13:6 And the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and it became as it was before.

Would you change your world? Then pray! Would you see a loved one saved? Then pray! Would you see your church reach the city? Then pray! Would you know the sweetness of God's heart? Then pray! Would you take part in the Kingdom's victory? Then pray! Would you see a marriage restored? Then pray! Would you find peace of heart? Then pray! As Tennyson wrote, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain..."

Thursday

Col. 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.

For what do you "labor" in prayer? Are there people, projects, plans or problems so burdensome to you or important to God that you "labor" before the throne in prayer? There should be. May God grant to you the burden of prayer: the burden to be serious, broken, dependent, and assured. This is one reason for the trying times of life, so that you might learn to labor in prayer. Make prayer a part of your work for God. Pray for your neighbors, your pastor, your church. Lift your family in prayer: by name, everyday. Make it your work before the throne of God.

Friday

Rom. 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

You cannot *force* someone else to receive God's gift of salvation. Even God *will not* bypass their freewill to *make them* be saved. Yet in the hidden mysteries of God, prayer is the key to the salvation of the lost. Pray then by name for others to be saved. Ask God to open their blinded eyes, to draw them by the Spirit's power, to convict of sin, and to reveal the truth. Do you have a list of names for which you daily pray? No! Start one now! It is the least you must do.