



A COMMANDMENT TO PRAY

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *I Thessalonians 5:16-25*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

It is the holy and blessed will of God to keep all our lines of communication open to Jesus in prayer. *“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4)*. Through faithful prayer in the Spirit, the hand of God is moved and the victory is won as *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16)*.

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

And the Lord said unto him, 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 for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually (I Kings 9:3).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. Prayer takes us to our knees where the battle is won. Humility in prayer reaps God’s mercy and grace (*Psalms 10:12; 55:22*).
2. *James 5:16* tells us: “. . . *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*” Therefore, we are commanded to pray in the Spirit for one another.
3. Cherishing our time of prayer becomes more and more fervent and effective as we love and obey the Lord’s commandments (*Exodus 20:6*).
4. Trusting in Jesus will give us the strength to pray always and be counted worthy of our calling (*II Thessalonians 1:11*).
5. The characteristics of a prayer life is calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus as we ask in prayer in His name (*Psalms 102:1-2*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

The Apostle Paul’s fervent, prayer life exhorted and comforted all the saints in the churches founded in Jesus’ name. We know Jesus is the one who is in all authority. Our daily supplications are a humble and sincere appeal to Jesus who has all the power to grant our every request. Our audible address to Jesus is our prayers requesting every bit of help from the Lord. Our intercession is a pleading action of prayer on behalf of souls in this lost and dying world. It is a very high exhortation by the Apostle Paul that we do this first. Praise Jesus!

As time goes on, we find that this untoward generation is bringing to pass all the prophecies of the Lord. The end time is approaching and it places our hearts to earnestly pray. Therefore, the Word of God tells us in *Luke 21:36: Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.* We all know the importance of prayer, the open lines of communication with God that keeps our hope and faith thriving. *Luke 18:1* tells us “. . . *that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.*” We all know how difficult it is to make time for everything; but, prayer for the believer should be priority number one. For it is prayer that will keep us worthy of our calling and rejoicing evermore.

LESSON SUMMARY:

We believe and experience that all things are possible with Jesus through prayer. His instruction in righteousness expresses His commandments to be unceasing in prayer as Jesus is our model of prayer. (*I Timothy 2:1*). We are exhorted to pray on and quench not the Spirit *“proving all things holding fast that which is good.”* Nothing is more expressed and more earnestly said in the scriptures than those who are called to pray in lowliness and humility. With meekness and in unity of the Holy Spirit we find the excellent disposition of heart, mind and soul to “pray without ceasing” for others. The commandment is clear to pray on in Jesus’ name.

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