Daily Devotion #176

**Just Keep Praying**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NASB)** *“Pray without ceasing.”*

One of the hardest things to do as believers is to stay persistent in prayer. There are many reasons for that. Some have said that it’s too hard to stay focused. Some have said that they don’t feel like anything comes from it. Others have said that they don’t know what to say, and on the list goes.

But none-the-less, Our Lord has told us to pray. And let’s understand, prayer is nothing more than a conversation with God - us speaking to Him. He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible, but prayer is us speaking to Him. So when we pray we are sharing with God the things that are on our minds and hearts. In turn, as we study His Word, we learn the answers to the things He wants for us and has planned for us – the things on his heart and mind.

You might ask for something specific like a need for groceries and wonder what the Bible says about that. Let me show you - God says in **Philippians 4:19 (NASB)** *“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus*.” And then in **2 Corinthians 9:8 (NASB)** *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed*.” Even the Psalms say in **Psalm 37:25 (NASB)** *“I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread*.” So God has already answered the prayer for food. That doesn’t mean if you walk into the grocery store food will jump into your basket. Sometimes what God provides is not what we think it will be, but He has promised He will meet all our needs.

Someone else ask about sick loved ones. Will God save them from dying? The answer is, maybe. God has said in His Word that all will die, eventually. No one is going to get around that. But, there are times when things happens that God displays His power through healing, but eventually, even those who have been healed at one point will die. That was the case with Lazarus. He died from some sickness, and the Lord raised him from the dead. It was a glorious occasion, but he still eventually died because God said that all who sin must die. (Ezekiel 18:20) Lazarus was a human just like everyone else, so he eventually had to die.

Before all of that sounds discouraging, we also are told in His Word that whatever we ask for He hears us and will answer us. **Psalm 34:15,17 (NASB)** *“The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The righteous cry, and the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles*.” But we also need to see that God has told us that He answers our prayers as long as they align with His will for us and the one for whom we are praying. **1 John 5:14 (NASB)** *“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us*.”

You and I can be fully confident that God always hears our prayers. His instruction to us is to ask for whatever we want but realize He will answer us in a way that is best for us. Sometimes our prayers are for selfish reasons where we are thinking more about what we need and want instead of what God wants for us in the situation. It is possible that God will say no to our prayers because we ask with wrong motives and or it simply does not fit what His will is for us. (James 4:3) So we should take great comfort in knowing that whenever and whatever we pray, our Father listens. He hears and responds. What you and I must do, however, is examine our hearts and pray for God’s will to be done in the circumstances. That way, we know God will answer according to what He knows is best for us. Let’s be comforted by this thought as well. He has no desire to do anything that is not in our best interests, even if that means taking us through difficulties to make us more godly. This certainly is the case a lot of times.

Take what the Lord has said about prayer, and pray continually what is on your heart, then be sure to give Him the glory and praise – regardless of his answers.