

I Thessalonians 5; Lord's Day 45

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING (2)

- I. God wants/demands His children to be in a prayerful disposition “without ceasing.”
 - A. First, this is to live in the consciousness that God is always disposed to help us.
 - B. Second, this means that we take every opportunity to pray.
 - C. Third this means that we are to be disposed to pray in every state and condition.
 - D. Fourth, this means that we not stop praying until our lawful requests are granted; we should not faint (Luke 18:1).
 - E. Fifth, this means that as long as we live we keep praying – even when we are too old/weak to do other things.
- II. Why should we pray without ceasing?
 - A. Because Satan is always assaulting us (as a roaring lion), seeking to bring us to sin and ruin.
 - B. Because our old man quickly recovers strength to battle again.
 - C. Because God is always ready to hear (Isaiah 59:1).
 - D. Because Jesus is always presenting His sufferings to the Father, showing that He purchased for us all for which we pray.
 - E. Because the Spirit is always ready to help our infirmities (Romans 8:26).
- III. Incentives to pray.
 - A. Warning: do not trust in prayer itself, but in the Rock to Whom prayer leads us. We may not use prayer like a charm.
 - B. There is a danger in not praying without ceasing.
 - C. Consider the examples of the efficacy of the prayer of faith.
 - D. “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is His delight” (Prov. 15:8).