

Author: David Breaux

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NASB)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Insight/Story:

I was walking in to church one morning, and passed my friend James McKamey walking out. "How is your prayer life?" he calls out. Then, without waiting for a response, he added "You should try praying with your eyes open." I am sure I had a bewildered look on my face at that point, but he went on to add that the bible tells us to pray without ceasing, and that is hard to do with your eyes closed.

Being used to the phrase "heads down, eyes closed", until then I never realized how much it limited my prayers. So many times I have seen a need, but delayed praying for it. Prayer should be offered up always, in all situations. Driving down the road, walking down a trail. Wherever you are, don't let your physical posture limit your access to a Heavenly Father who longs to hear from you.

Prayer:

Father, the Bible says that you are the God who sees. We come to you with eyes wide open. Teach us to see the things that You see. Show us the needs that surround us. Don't let our physical posture limit our ability to lift those needs to You. God, continue to make us a church that prays without ceasing, one that sees your people in need and acts without delay.

Author: Kyle Wall

Scripture: Ephesians 3:20 (ESV)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...

Insight/Story:

This verse comes at the end of a prayer that the Apostle Paul prayed for the believers in the first century. He prayed that they would be rooted and grounded in the amazing love of Christ and that they would be filled with all the fullness of God. Wow! That is some prayer. Paul is asking God for a lot; he is reaching out there.

But then in verse 20, Paul reminds the believers that God is able to do more than we can ask or think. God can do more than we can imagine. Listen to what Jerry Bridges has to say about this verse.

“When I have thought of the greatest prayer request I can think of, God’s resources have just begun to come into operation.”¹

Prayer:

Father, your love and power are way beyond what we can imagine; thank you! Not only do you desire to answer our God-centered request, you desire to answer with more than we can imagine. Teach us to pray prayers that cause your resources to come into operation. Stretch our faith, stretch our imagination, and then do more than we can ask or think for your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen!

¹ Bridges, J. (2009). *How to Get Results Through Prayer* (23). Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.

Author: Robbie Freeman

Scripture: Revelation 5:8 (ESV)

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Insight/Story:

Teaching two rambunctious boys how a Christian should pray will teach you a lot about your prayer life. Children (mine at least) have short attention spans and having their parent's eyes closed for a few minutes is a perfect opportunity to pinch, poke, or make their brother giggle. We have tried to teach our boys reverence in prayer. Reverence does not just mean silence; reverence is a profound appreciation and thankfulness towards God. John's heavenly scene in Revelation illustrates why reverence is so important in our prayers. The prayers that we speak over the dinner table, in our cars, when we tuck our children in at night- are offerings to God. Our prayers are a conversation with our Father, but they are not only a conversation with our Father. God values our prayers, and they are pleasing to him, they are our offering to God.

Prayer:

Father, we pray that Faith Promise will fill up countless golden bowls of beautifully smelling incense to you during this study.

Author: Dustin Scott

Scripture: Luke 10:19-20 (ESV)

Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

Insight/Story:

Lately I've noticed something interesting with my son. Whenever he builds towers or fights bad guys, he stops and looks to me. I know the look instantly; he's waiting for my approval. So I'll laugh or say awesome tower and his face lights up with joy. Of course what I am really saying is I see you, I'm proud of you, and I love you. It's not what he has done that typically draws my response; it's who he is. He's my son.

I think that's the kind of interaction we see here. The disciples did amazing things and can't wait to get Jesus' approval. Jesus' reminds them that he is proud of them because of who they are, not because of what they have done. God wants you to hear the same. No matter what you've done, He sees you, He is proud of you, and He loves you.

Prayer:

Father, You are a gracious God of love. You love us because of who we are, sons and daughters of the King, not because of what we've done or will do. Help us stop looking for approval in this world and other people. Help us recognize we have the only approval we will ever need from a loving Father. Help us rejoice in that truth, instead of walking in the lies of this world. Amen.

Author: Kerri Karel

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-8 (NASB)

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Insight/Story:

When I was "kicking the tires" of a relationship with Jesus, and even in my early days as a believer, I was afraid to ask the Lord for anything. I felt so unworthy to even ask. I had to let it sink in that Jesus, who spoke these words, paid for my sins with his death. This sacrifice is what makes me worthy to ask.

Once I discovered this passage and began to put it into practice, my prayer life changed. This passage does not mean we can treat God like Santa Claus. We must ask, seek and knock with a spirit of humility to remain in God's will. When I began to boldly pray for "big" things, God gave me "big" things.

What is holding you back from praying boldly and asking God for "big" things? Remember, your worth comes from Jesus. Humbly ask and see what God does!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your one and only Son to die for us and make us worthy to come to you boldly in prayer. Your word tells us to ask and it will be given. Today, we boldly ask for what we want and what we seek. We knock on the door of Heaven and ask You to direct our path, give us wisdom and remind us that we are saved by Grace. We ask for these things in the name of Jesus, Amen!

Author: Kelsey Arnold

Scripture: Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.

Insight/Story:

After three years of marriage, my husband and I felt called to foster to adopt. Little did we know at that time what God had in store for our family. After watching our friends muddle through the PATH classes, we decided to give them a shot too. Fostering is not for the weak of hearts, which I am! There are days I want to take my kids and hide, but God has called our family to do greater things. In June of this year, after fostering our daughter for an emotional 420 days, we got to experience joy on a whole new level and adopted her into our forever family. It is crazy to think of all of the things that God has taught us along the way and all the stories people have shared as a result. We have experienced love, joy, empathy, compassion, and so much more in ways we could not have imagined.

Prayer:

Father, we come to you today with outstretched arms thanking you for new found strength. Your mercies are new every morning. Keep our focus and attention turned to you Lord. Show us all that you would have us to see today and direct our path every step of the way. We love you, Lord, Amen!

Author: Brian Hearon

Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:6 (NASB)

"Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man."

Insight/Story:

British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli said "Change is inevitable, change is constant."

Our human nature teaches us to resist change. God, in his infinite wisdom, designed us to desire a love relationship with Him, our creator. This love relationship requires us to constantly change to conform to His will. From Genesis to Revelations, we find people who were transformed or changed, when they had a fresh encounter with God.

As believers, we must come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Life changes when we are directed by the director. I love seeing people's lives change when they are directed by Jesus. It's beautiful to see people become who God wants them to be!

Our God sees the beginning and the end, not just the season of life in which we currently live. To maintain a love relationship with Christ, we must realize that "Change is inevitable, change is constant!"

Prayer:

Our Father, as we seek your face and you reveal yourself to us, help us to be obedient to you so you change us into who you want us to be. In the name of Jesus, amen.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Disraeli