Sermon Notes – 01.19.2025 – A Life of Prayer

If you want answered prayer – You need to pray.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 Rejoice always; 17 **pray without ceasing;** 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything *carefully;* hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

- **To Be a Person of Prayer – You Need to Get the Big Picture Revealed Here**

Don't Neglect Prayer [Remember? Devoted & Carrying?]

Don't Make it a Last Resort – "When All Else Fails - All We Can Do Is Pray."

- **It's Not a Formula - Make it Your Life**

Appealing for Justice was not her Hobby – It was Her Life

Luke 18:1-7 Now He was telling them a parable **to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart**, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 "There was a widow in that city, and **she kept coming to him**, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge *said; 7 now, **will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?**

> **Always -** At all times. That is, we must not neglect regular stated seasons of prayer; we must seize on occasions of remarkable providences as afflictions or signal blessings to seek God in prayer; we must "always" maintain a spirit of prayer, or be in a proper frame to lift up our hearts to God for his blessing, and we must not grow weary though our prayer seems not to be answered.
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> **Not to faint -** Not to grow weary or give over. The parable is designed to teach us that, though our prayers should long appear to be unanswered, we should persevere, and not grow weary in supplication to God.

1 Peter 3:12 "FOR **THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER**, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

Even a Roman Centurian Was Heard and Remembered – But Listen to Him & the Angel

Acts 10:30-31 Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, **I was praying in my house** during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, 31 and he *said, **'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God**.

Embracing the Life of a Faithful Praying Person

Psalms 66:16-20 **Come *and* hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.** 17 I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. 18 **If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;** 19 But c**ertainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer**. 20 Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me.

> **Psalms 34:17** ***The righteous*** **cry, and the LORD hears** And delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted** And saves those who are crushed in spirit.
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> **Proverbs 15:29** **The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous**.
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> **1 Peter 3:12** "**FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER,** BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

Elijah Was a Man with a Nature like Ours, and he Prayed Earnestly

James 5:16-18 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. **The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much**. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. 18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

> It might be said that his example could not be adduced to prove that the prayers of those who were not favored with such advantages would be heard; and especially that it could not be argued from his case that the prayers of the ignorant, and of the weak, and of children and of servants, would be answered. **To meet this, the apostle says that he was a mere man, with the same natural propensities and infirmities as other men, and that therefore his case is one which should encourage all to pray.**

I Had the Privilege of Meeting a WW2 Veteran in a Diner the Other Day – I took Some Time to Thank Him for His Service and He Said, “A lot of People Have Tried to Say We Were Heros…I Just Did My Job.” That’s What They All Say. But It Strikes Me that They All Embraced a Very Different Life So That They Could Do What They Did.

We Also Embrace a Very Different Life – It’s Just a Matter of Doing What People Who Have Embraced the Life Do and for Us, That Includes Praying and Never Giving Up.