

Continual prayer - God's will for us – Session 2

Our objective for this series is to gain wisdom and revelation on what the Bible teaches about continual prayer. As a house of prayer, our primary calling is to pray to God continually. To do that we need fresh perspective and renewed vision to faithfully walk out this assignment before Him.

¹⁹ Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God. Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD (1 CHRONICLES 22:19)

For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,” Says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 1:11)

REVIEW:

- A. As a house of prayer, our vision is to build day-and-night prayer, that our ministry to the Lord would bring transformation to our communities. ***They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed (Psalms 34:5)*** Last week we looked at Psalms 34:1,3-5 and how this passage gives us a direct parallel between David's commitment to continual prayer and our vision for prayer 7 days a week.
- B. If we are going to continue building prayer here at TWR, we must have the same conviction that David had: ***I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalms 34:1)*** David understood continual prayer to be God's will and testified that those who embrace it will experience breakthrough and transformation.
- C. While there is a glory to continual prayer, there is also a cost we must pay to walk in it. But rather than begrudgingly counting that cost, instead we should celebrate it as an extravagant offering. Continual prayer is a good work that anoints Jesus to do His work.

The Glory & The Cost of Unceasing Prayer - Part 2

I. Unceasing Prayer is:

- A. **Unsettling** - The word unceasing is unsettling; anything that starts and never stops is immediately branded as intense and extreme. As glorious as unceasing prayer and adoration to Jesus is, it is equally as unsettling, and troublesome not just to the lost or un-envisioned but frequently also to those who are pursuing it.

- B. Controversial** - Unceasing prayer and adoration is the mandate of the Church; to give Jesus everything that He is due. The unceasing nature of this calling ascribes His worth; declares His perfection and accentuates His infinite glory. But this is a controversial idea, not in concept but in practice; many seek to dismiss and avoid it with plenty of non-biblical reasoning fueling their positions.
1. Many would say it is unnecessary.
 2. Many more would say that it is impractical.
 3. Others simply aren't interested in it even if it is God.
- C. Disruptive** - For anyone or any ministry to embrace the call to unceasing prayer and worship they will find their lives greatly disturbed. It's night and day, it's everyday, it's all day, there are no breaks or weekends off and there is no overtime pay. This is the most disruptive thing I can imagine. Further, in order to accomplish this beautiful but costly commission those that uphold the charge for unceasing prayer will have to turn down many other good things that normal people partake in.
- D. Demanding** - Unceasing prayer and praise is very demanding on those who uphold it and all those related to those that keep it. It requires significant amounts of money, unbelievable amounts of time spent in meetings and organizing and maintaining it. A ministry's attention must be captive and focused on this task or it will not sustain.

II. Unceasing Prayer and worship is relentlessly attacked:

- A. Satan hates unceasing prayer and worship for a hundred reasons, but the primary reason he hates it is because he wants people to worship him as god. If you are someone who is contending for day-and-night prayer, Satan becomes intensely jealous and will do whatever he can to get you to quit and give up.
- B. We need to understand something very important: the enemy is not primarily threatened by people simply getting saved or by a church that only prays occasionally. But when saved people pray continually—when the church does the will of God—that becomes the greatest threat to the enemy.
- C. God has bound Himself in many ways to the prayers of the saints. There are things God will not do unless His people pray. So when a believer continually intercedes for God to do God things, Satan hates it. It's important to know that Satan attacks day and night prayer like nothing nothing else
- D. Here are some of the attacks and it's happening around here today, right now.
- Satan brings doubts that praying even matters.
 - Satan brings divisiveness, over everything just so he can hinder and complicate the prayer thing
 - Satan brings distractions in order to get us focused off prayer and on to anything else
 - Satan brings offense to get us locked up inside - every offended person eventually leaves
 - Satan brings boredom in order to get us to move on to something else.
 - Satan brings self-focus and tries to get us thinking about our worth, time, talent, desires and not God