



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The Great Need to Continue in Prayer ... by Gareth

- **T**he need for prayer today this year is as great if not greater than ever before. The bible which is God's Holy Word says that men ought always to pray without ceasing. Ephesians 6:18 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."
- **But why is this constant, persistent, sleepless, overcoming prayer so needful?**
 - **BECAUSE THERE IS A DEVIL.**
He is cunning, he is mighty, he never rests, he is ever plotting the downfall of the child of God; and if the child of God relaxes in prayer, the devil will succeed in ensnaring him.
 - **PRAYER IS GOD'S APPOINTED WAY FOR OBTAINING THINGS, AND THE GREAT SECRET OF ALL LACK IN OUR EXPERIENCE, IN OUR LIFE AND IN OUR WORK IS NEGLECT OF PRAYER.**
James 4:2 "Ye have not because ye ask not." These words contain the secret of the poverty and powerlessness of the average Christian -- neglect of prayer.
 - **THOSE MEN WHOM GOD SET FORTH AS A PATTERN OF WHAT HE EXPECTED CHRISTIANS TO BE .**
It is evident from what Paul wrote to the churches and to individuals about praying for them, that very much of his time and strength and thought was given to prayer. (*Rom. 1:9, Eph. 1:15,16; Col. 1:9, 1 Thess. 3:10; 2 Tim. 1:3,*)
 - **PRAYER OCCUPIED A VERY PROMINENT PLACE AND PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN THE EARTHLY LIFE OF OUR LORD.**
Mark 1:35 "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Luke 6:12 : "And it came to pass in those days that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."
 - **PRAYING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE PRESENT MINISTRY OF OUR RISEN LORD.**
Heb. 7:25, "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM." This verse tells us that Jesus is able to save us unto the uttermost, not merely FROM the uttermost, but UNTO the uttermost, unto entire completeness, absolute perfection, because He
 - **PRAYER IS THE MEANS THAT GOD HAS APPOINTED FOR OUR RECEIVING MERCY, AND OBTAINING GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.**
Heb. 4:16 is one of the simplest and sweetest verses in the Bible, -- "*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*" These words make it very plain that God has appointed a way by which we shall seek and obtain mercy and grace.



WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Issue 04

- **PRAYER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE WAY JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF HAS APPOINTED FOR HIS DISCIPLES TO OBTAIN FULLNESS OF JOY.**
He states this simply and beautifully in *John 16:24*, "*Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be fulfilled.*" The Psalmist was surely not speaking only of future blessedness, but also of present blessedness when he said, "*In Thy presence is fullness of joy.*" (*Ps. 16.11*).
- **PRAYER, IN EVERY CARE AND ANXIETY AND NEED OF LIFE, WITH THANKSGIVING, IS THE MEANS THAT GOD HAS APPOINTED FOR OBTAINING FREEDOM FROM ALL ANXIETY, AND THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING.**
"*Be careful for nothing,*" says Paul, "*but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" (*Phil. 4:6,7.*)
- **PRAYER IS THE METHOD THAT GOD HIMSELF HAS APPOINTED FOR OUR OBTAINING THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
"*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*" (*Luke 11:13*).
- **PRAYER ACCOMPLISHES.** Prayer promotes our spiritual growth as almost nothing else, indeed as nothing else but Bible study; and true prayer and true Bible study go hand in hand.

It is through prayer that my sin is brought to light, my most hidden sin. As I kneel before God and pray, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me,*" (*Ps. 139:23,24*).

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Next bible study** will be *Friday the 9th of Feb at 7pm* in 110
- ▶ **Next Young at heart meeting** will take place on *Saturday the 10th of Feb at 7:30pm* in 110
- ▶ **If you are interested in joining/helping** with any of the ministries in the church, please speak to the Pastors
- ▶ **Fire Alarm test/drill** will take place directly after the meeting on Sunday at approx. *1:00 o'clock*