Pray Without Ceasing
Luke 18:1-8

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

To the Christian, few blessings compare to answered prayer, but unfortunately many have ________ to pray. Today, we look at the ________ to pray without ceasing. The Bible opens the ________ to God, the God who created us. It teaches us who He is, what He’s done, and _____ we should serve Him and Him alone. The greatest blessing of ________ is to have a deep relationship with God, our Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Studying Scripture and prayer go hand in hand. One can’t grow spiritually and grow ________ to God unless he both studies the Word and prays regularly.

Prayer was important to people in ancient times. When Moses _________ the Red Sea ahead and Pharaoh’s armies _________, what did he do? He prayed. Daniel would rather be put into the lion’s _____ for a night than to go one day without prayer. When Jonah was thrown overboard and thought he would drown, he prayed. When Judah had become so wicked with Ahab and Jezebel, Elijah prayed that it wouldn’t ________. Jesus regularly sought out a ________ place to pray—even though He lived a sinless life. He needed the ________ with His Father, and so do we. If the devil can keep us from praying, he can keep us from ________. Jesus began the cross with a prayer and He ended the cross with a prayer.

Someone said, “When you can’t do anything ________, you can pray”; but why ________ until you’re desperate before you pray? Prayer is God’s marvelous ________. Prayer is the gift of Himself, His ear, His heart, and His love. We must never neglect to approach our Father even one day. James 5:16 says that, “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish ______.” God can do more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). Prayer is a great blessing!


Prayer and faith go hand in hand. I hope that you have ________ faith when you pray. In its simplest definition, prayer is people speaking from their ________ to Almighty God. What makes this sacred and spiritual is not that man is speaking, but that God is ________. God invites men to pray to Him.

Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:7-11. First Peter 5:6-7 says, “Therefore ________ yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He ________ for you.”

The apostle Paul urged Timothy, and all of us, to pray. He said, “First of all, then, I ________ that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Entreaties are an earnest ________ of God for our needs; God wants
us to ask Him to provide our needs. The word “prayers” refers to the whole _____ of petitions made to God. Intercessions means we’re seeking the hearing of God on behalf of _____ and their needs. Thanksgiving expresses gratitude for God's blessings. Prayer is how we ______ our Father with the concerns of our hearts, how we give thanks, and how we praise our Father for His grace. In the model prayer, our Lord Jesus addresses God as “our Father” (Matthew 6:9-15). Our Father in heaven has compassion on His people. He is ready to grant their requests.

Read the parable the Lord told in Luke 18:1-8. If men are willing to answer someone’s earnest plea, don’t you think God—who’s greater and more just than we are—will also answer our pleas?

First Thessalonians 5:17 simply says, “pray without ceasing.” I realize that no one can _____ every moment of every day in prayer. We have to _____ sometime and we have to sleep sometime. What Paul is saying is, “Don’t _____ praying.” Don’t live a prayerless life. Colossians 4:2 says, “Continue steadfastly in”, another version says, “devote yourself to prayer, being __________ in it with thanksgiving.” Pray daily, pray from your heart. Draw close and stay close to God.

The Scriptures teach us _____ to pray. The Lord Jesus said, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it” (John 14:13-14). When we pray, we should recognize that God hears our prayers because of our privilege to speak in the ______ of Jesus Christ. When we ask in the name of Jesus, Jesus promises to _____ what we ask. By answering our prayers, the Father is glorified in and by His Son, Jesus.

When we pray, let’s consider God’s _____ and God’s desires, not merely our own. First John 5:14-15 says, “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his _____ he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we _____ that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” What we want and what God wills are not always the ______. We must _____ God’s Word to know God’s will. When we let our desires ______ our hearts and our prayers, we cause problems for ourselves.

James 4:1-3 asks, “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at ______ within you? You desire and do not have, so you _______. You _______ and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ______. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your _______.” God will not grant our selfish prayers that fill our passions, but not His will.

When we pray, we must ask in _______. James 1:5-8 says, “If any of you lacks ________, let him ask God, who _______ generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ______.” God is generous to us, but He wants us to believe in Him and in His kindness. God cannot trust us with His blessing when we
aren’t sure about Him. Let’s trust God!

When we pray for God’s help, let’s pray with __________. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been _________ in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence (boldness) to the ________ of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

We can come boldly to God’s throne to ask for help in _________ of temptation and weakness. God loves us and is more than willing to _________ us when we’re tempted. The Lord Jesus told Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He Himself was praying about His upcoming death, “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the ________ is willing, but the ________ is weak” (Matthew 26:41). We must monitor our souls, watching and praying for God’s help. Though we want to do what is right, we _________ fleshly temptations. God helps us when we pray.

When we pray, let’s do so with humble _______. Read the parable in Luke 18:10-14 that the Lord Jesus told to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt. The Pharisee was reading his resume and telling God how valuable he was rather than realizing his dependence upon God’s __________. If we wish to boast, let’s boast in the Lord. Paul once asked the Corinthians who had become arrogant, “What do you have that you did not _________?” (1 Corinthians 4:7). Let’s remember that we all stand in ________ of God’s ________ and forgiveness’ that we must approach God with humility.

When we pray, let’s pray with forgiveness for _________ in our hearts. The Lord Jesus said, “Whenever you stand praying, _________, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions” (Mark 11:25). God forgives us when we’re merciful and forgiving toward others. If we harden our hearts toward others, we’ll have no _________ that God will forgive us.

Before you pray today, I hope you’ll _______ and consider God, the One to whom you’re praying. If you’re praying according to His will, the Father Himself is paying _________ to your prayer. We can pray anytime and anywhere because God is omnipresent—everywhere present. Jeremiah 23:24 says, “Can anyone ________ in secret places so that I cannot see him?’ declares the LORD. ‘Do not I fill heaven and earth?’ declares the LORD.” Wherever we are, God is ________.

Before praying today, remember that God _______ and knows everything about our lives and circumstances. Nothing _________ His attention. When we pray, He knows what’s in our hearts and what we need even _________ we ask. Proverbs 15:11 says, “Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no ______.” He knows just _________ we need and _________ we need it. He understands our lives and needs even _________ than we know ourselves. God stands _________ to help, and He wants us to approach Him for the help that we most need.
Before praying today, remember that God is omnipotent! He’s all __________! Jeremiah 32:17 says, “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great _______ and outstretched arm. Nothing is too _______ for you.” God can do things that we can’t do. We’re limited __________, limited in time, in energy, and in ability. Some things are too hard for us, but not for God. Let’s never be __________ to appeal to God for the help that we need to accomplish those things that we cannot do for ourselves. God wants to be asked; He wants us to seek His help; and He wants us to knock at His door. He stands ready to help when we need Him.

Before we pray today, let’s remember that God _______ us. Romans 8:32 says, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be _______ us? He who did not _______ his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us _____ things?” If God our Father did not hold back His own Son but gave Him up, why would we think He would withhold some small blessing from us?

When we pray, let’s give _______ for God’s kindness and goodness. God blesses us richly every day. Our lives would be so much _______ physically and spiritually if we didn’t have God in our lives. Let’s never _______ God or take His grace for granted. Where would we be if He had not been with us? Many in our society think we no longer _______ God; they could not be more wrong! We do need God! Our access to God through Christ _______ us to salvation and gives us hope and assurance.

If you’ve neglected praying regularly or stopped praying altogether, I want to encourage you to _______ praying regularly again. The Lord Jesus said, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, _______ that you have received them, and they shall be granted you” (Mark 11:22-24).

Some have stopped believing that God _______ prayer, but God answers prayers every day. We can have confidence in God because God keeps His _______. God acts in ways that He would not have acted if we had not prayed. Our prayers _______ to God. James 5:16 says, “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish _______.” Ephesians 3:20 says God “is able to do far more abundantly _______ all that we ask or think.” I don’t believe in the power of my prayer; I believe in the power of God to _______ prayer.

If you want God to answer your prayers, then follow Him and do what He desires. Love Him; get right with Him. To become a Christian believe in Jesus Christ, repent of your sins and change your ways, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ. According to the New Testament, baptism into Christ is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. You can read about this in Acts 2:38; or Acts 22:16; or Romans 6:3-7. Why not worship at a church of Christ, study with a teacher there, and become a Christian?