

Greater Works Christian Church

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Praying in Tongues, Part 1

Introduction: Of all the things that a Church can do, prayer is the most important. Of all the things that we can do in any Church service, prayer is still the most important thing we can do. Most Churches have much teaching and preaching with little prayer, when we should have much prayer with far less teaching and preaching.

The importance of prayer can NEVER be overstated. The Church of today has not yet embraced the importance of prayer. This is the reason why at "Greater Works Christian Church" we are not only going to be speaking of prayer, but we will be engaging in more and more prayer.

Mark 11:15-18

15 Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves;

16 and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple.

17 And He *began* to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'? But you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN."

18 The chief priests and the scribes heard *this*, and *began* seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

As we can plainly see, it is God's desire that His house be a house of prayer. This is not only the desire of God, but it was what motivated Jesus to clear the Temple. The leaders in the Temple were doing everything it seemed but pray. Being very angry at what He saw, Jesus drove out all who were not engaged in those things that were not appropriate for the Temple.

This is not a picture of what merely happened then, but it is a picture of what is happening today as well. It seems that in most churches there are endless programs, but very little prayer. Prayer has been reduced it seems to that which opens a meeting and closes a meeting, with very little prayer in between. God wants that changed. Prayer is to be the main component of our services and meetings, not merely the opening and closing of our meetings.

Question: Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. He also kept people from carrying merchandise through the Temple. Why did Jesus do this? What motivated Him to do this?

Pray Without Ceasing (Don't Stop Praying)

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise prophecies.

21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

Paul gives the Thessalonian Church some basic wisdom and instruction on how the church should conduct itself. All of these things are related to one another, including prayer.

Prayer gives the power and ability to accomplish everything else in this list.

v.17) *“pray without ceasing”*

The Bible makes it very clear about how often we should be praying. According to this verse we should “pray without ceasing”.

Without Ceasing (89) *adiáleiptos*

1) without intermission, incessantly, without ceasing

Praying “without ceasing” may seem like an impossibility, but I assure you it is not. God would never ask us to do something we couldn't do. If He asks it of us, we have the ability to achieve it.

Question: How is it possible to Pray without Ceasing?

Don't Give Up

Luke 18:1-8

1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'

4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.

7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

In this parable Jesus teaches us the importance of continued prayer. He shows that even an unjust judge can be moved by the widow's tenacity. If the widow could sway the judge through her persistence how much more our God Who loves us?

v.8) ***"I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"***

It is interesting to note that Jesus speaks about His second coming in regards to this parable. He asks this question: *"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

I find it interesting that Jesus equates persistent prayer with faith. Often times we have an incomplete view and understanding of what faith is.

Among other things faith is faithfulness. Faithfulness is persistence and perseverance. Faith is often recognized in our unending pursuit of what is right(eous).

-Robert A. Enos

Question: The woman in this story didn't give up after the Judge turned her away. Why is this important to the development of faith?

After discussing the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem Jesus gives this command:

Watch and Pray Always

Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

To "watch... and pray" causes one to be counted worthy to escape destruction, and to "stand before the Son of Man."

It would be near impossible to put too much importance on prayer. Prayer is extremely vital to our overall health and well-being- spiritually, emotionally and physically.

Question: We know that Prayer is important, but why would Prayer cause one to be counted worthy to escape “things that will come to pass”?

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:13-18

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

This passage describes the Armor of God

1. As a Belt- Truth
2. Breastplate of Righteousness
3. As Shoes- Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
4. Shield of Faith
5. Helmet of Salvation
6. Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God)
7. Prayer and Supplication

Supplication- to ask earnestly

Prayer and Supplication are often left out of the equation. Prayer and Supplication are the things that empower the Armor. Without Prayer and Supplication our armor is incomplete.

Question: Prayer and Supplication is included in the description of the Armor of God. After reading this passage, why is Prayer included as a part of the Armor?

Conclusion: As we have seen Prayer is the most important thing we can do as believers in Christ, Jesus. So important is prayer that Jesus said, “My house shall be called a house of prayer.”

We also find that continual prayer is important. It is God’s will for us all to pray, and to pray a lot.

Prayer will open the door to many things and will draw the things of God to us.

Please Read these passages:

Romans 12:12 (v.9-21)

Colossians 1:9

Colossians 4:2

Colossians 4:12

Philippians 4:6

1 Samuel 12:23

Psalms 55:16-17