**Reaching The Goal of "Praying Without Ceasing".**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. In our study on prayer, we have examined...

 a. The purpose of prayer d. The principles of prayer

 b. The power of prayer e. The persistence of prayer

 c. The privilege of prayer

2. Hopefully these studies have increased our desire to pray...

 a. To pray more fervently and with more consistency....

 b. To benefit from all that prayer has to offer.....

3. To encourage us even more to pray, let's look closer at **"Reaching the**

 **Goal of Praying without Ceasing"** by trying to answer these four main

 Questions......

 a. How should we pray? c. With whom should we pray?

 b. When should we pray? d. For what should we pray?

[Even if we have been praying all our lives, it never hurts to ask

**"Lord, teach us to pray..."**]

**I. HOW TO PRAY**

 **A. THE MODEL PRAYER...**

 1. Jesus was asked by His disciples how to pray -

[**Lk 11:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2011.1)***.... And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.***

 a. They had just witnessed Jesus praying

 b. They knew John the Baptist had taught his disciples to pray

 c. While they had prayed as Jews, they recognized a need to

 learn more

 2. In response, Jesus offered a model, a guide for learning to

 pray -

[**Lk 11:2-4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2011.2-4)***... 2And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.3Give us day by day our daily bread.4And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.***

 a. Commonly called "The Lord's Prayer", also found in Mt **6:9-13**

 b. It was intended to serve as a model ("In this manner...")

 -

 [**Mt 6:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.9)***....After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.***

 **-- The Lord's prayer serves as an example of how to pray, not a**

 **liturgical exercise**

 **B. THE PROPER PRAYER...**

 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOD Addresses God the Father

 ("Our Father in heaven") -

 [**Mt 6:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.9)***....After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.***

 2. REVERENCE.............Expresses reverence toward God

 ("Hallowed be Your Name") -

 [**Mt 6:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.9)**-10....*****After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.***

 3. SUPPLICATION..........Includes supplication for such things as:

 a. God's purposes ("Your kingdom come.

 Your will be done on earth as it is

 in heaven.") -

 [**Mt 6:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.10)**.... *10Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.***

 b. Our physical/spiritual needs ("Give

 us this day our daily bread.")

 [**Mt 6:11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.11)**....***11Give us this day our daily bread.*

 c. Our spiritual needs ("And forgive us

 our debts...") -

 [**Mt 6:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.12)**....*****12And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.***

 d. The spiritual needs of others ("...as

 we forgive our debtors.") -

 [**Mt 6:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.12)**..*****12And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.***

 e. Guidance and help in our struggle

 against sin and Satan ("And do not lead

 us into temptation, but deliver us

 from the evil one.") -

[**Mt 6:13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.13)*.... 13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen*

 4. ADORATION...............Praises God ("For Yours is the kingdom

 and the power and the glory

 forever. Amen.") -

[***Mt 6:13***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.13)***....*** *13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen*

 5. **SIMPLICITY**..............In teaching on prayer, Jesus stressed

 the importance of:

 a. Simplicity in prayers -

[**Mt 6:7-8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.7-8)**...** 7But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.8Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

 b. Forgiving others -

[**Mt 6:14-15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.14-15)***. 14For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:15But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.***

**...**

 c. Persistence in prayers -

[**Lk 12:5-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2012.5-10)***....But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.6Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?7But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.8Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:9But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.10And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.***

**Memorize the Lord's prayer and it can serve to remind US how to pray**

[Another common concern in **"The Practice Of Prayer"** is...]

**II. WHEN TO PRAY**

 **A. SCHEDULED PRAYERS...**

 1. Having set times to pray can help develop a habit of prayer

 2. Consider the practice of two great men of God

 a. David, whom God described as "a man after My own heart"

 -

[**Ps 55:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%2055.17)*... 17Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.*

 b. Daniel, whom the angel of God described as "O man greatly

 beloved" -

[**Dan 6:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Dan%206.10)*... 10Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

 3. They made it a habit to pray at set times during the day

 a. It would not hurt to imitate them

 b. Praying three times daily: morning, noon, and evening

 **At the very least, make time each day to spend time in prayer**

 **B. SPONTANEOUS PRAYERS...**

 1. Prayers should not be limited to set times

 2. Jesus spent all night in prayer before selecting His apostles

[**Lk 6:12-13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%206.12-13)*... 12And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.13And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;*

 3. Paul and Silas prayed when faced with trying circumstances -

[**Ac 16:25**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2016.25)*... 25And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*

 4. Nehemiah prayed silently on the spur of the moment -

 [**Neh 2:4-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Neh%202.4-5)**...*****4Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.5And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.***

 5. The Israelites prayed to God in the heat of battle -

[***1Ch 5:20***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ch%205.20)***.... 20And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him.***

**We should pray whenever and however the occasion calls for it.**

 **C. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING...**

 1. The goal is to "pray without ceasing" -

[**1Th 5:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%205.17)*...Pray without ceasing.*

 2. Having scheduled times to pray will develop experience in

 prayer

 3. Praying spontaneously will develop a disposition to pray in

 every circumstance

**Together, they help us reach the goal of praying without ceasing**

**CONCLUSION**

**1. In regards to "The Practice Of Prayer", we have considered...**

 **a. How to pray, with the aid of the Lord's prayer**

 **b. When to pray, suggesting both set times and spontaneous prayers**

**2. As we develop both the experience and disposition to pray, we should**

 **also consider...**

 **a. With whom to pray, alone or with others**

 **b. For what to pray, besides what has already been suggested**

**This we will do in the second part of our study on**

**"The Practice Of Prayer" is reaching the goal of
"Praying Without Ceasing**"