

**Sunday, February 21, 2021**

**Title: The Habit of Prayer**

**Receiving God's Favor - 5**

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 24; Matthew 6:8-13

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation that “praying without ceasing” is a Divine motivation deposited in our soul through the NEW BIRTH that we either cultivate or suppress (forcibly put to an end)!

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

### **Introduction:**

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Review of the last Sunday's devotional:

Choosing to Love

1. Father Abraham
2. Faithful Servant
3. Fair Maiden, Rebekah
4. Favored Son, Isaac
5. Volitional Love

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 24; Matthew 6:8 - 13

### **1. Prayer is a Divine Ministry:**

1.1) The Ministry of Our Risen Lord:  
Romans 8:34

1.2) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit:  
Romans 8:26

1.3) Yoked with the Lord:  
~ Matthew 11:28 – 30, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

~ Matthew 9:37 – 38, “Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; (38) therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

### **2. Prayer Has a Divine Focus:**

~ Matthew 6:9 – 10, “Pray then like this; “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (10) Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

2.1) Is my FOCUS for His kingdom:

Colossians 3:1 – 2, “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

2.2) Is my will to do HIS will:

Hebrews 10:36, “For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.”

### **3. Prayer Has a Divine Promise:**

~ 1 John 5:14 – 15, “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (15) And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have the request that we have asked of him.”

### **4. Prayer is Divinely Commanded:**

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “pray without ceasing”

~ This is a cultivated habit of ATTITUDE; it is not a position, or recluse behavior, or occasional retreat. It is an attitude carried into everyday life that is reinforced by group gatherings and personal prayer closet times.

~ A.C.T. S. model

4.1) Adoration:

~ “hallowed be thy name”

~ Rev. 4:8, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

4.2) Confession:

~ Negative – Matthew 4:17, “From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

~ Positive – 2 Corinthians 5:21, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

4.3) Thanksgiving:

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

4.4) Supplication:

~ insert (YouTube)

~ Galatians 6:2, “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

### **Conclusion:**

Hymn – Sweet Hour of Prayer