

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

Our lesson comes from the pool of sixteen Greek present imperatives (commands) listed by Paul in (1 Thess.5:13-25).

This verse, (1 Thess.5:17), is popular to many Christians - “**Pray** (proseuchomai/ p.m.impv.2pl) **without ceasing** (adialeptos) [adverb]. It is often quoted, but what does it really mean?

Our lesson will study three aspects of “Pray without Ceasing”.

Note that **without ceasing** is a Greek adverb.

1. Let us begin with the adverb (adialeptos).

- The (a) on front is an alpha privative meaning without.
- The verb form of dialeptos is dialeipo which means to leave between intervals of space and or time.

Therefore (adialeptos) means to pray without intervals.

An example of praying without ceasing, or without intervals of space or time, would be Jonah inside the sea monster’s stomach, recorded in the Book in Jonah

(Jonah 2:1) “Then Jonah prayed (palal/ hithpael imperfect 3ms/ intensive reflexive) to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish.”

Now Note:

(Jonah 2:2) “I called (qara/ qal perfect 1ps) **out of my distress** (tsarah/ nfs) [a suffering distress] to the Lord, and He answered me. I cried for help (shawa) [desperate] from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.”

Jonah was stressed out, waiting to die. But he was a carnal (back-sliding) spiritual believer under Divine Discipline (Heb.12:5-11).

But Jonah came to his senses, much like the prodigal son (Luke 15:17)

- Confessed his sin of rejection of the known Will of God (1 John 1:9)
- Regained his spiritual footing (1 Cor.3:1-3)

And went from a position of hopelessness to hopefulness of life by returning to do the Will of Lord.

(Jonah 2:6b) “**But You brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.**”
(Matt.12:38-40; Ps.16:9--11; Acts 13:35)

(Jonah 2:10) “Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto dry land.”

2. Seeking divine truth for your life is always running the risk of discovering what you would rather not see or deal with in your personal life, yet it is necessary to find the “joy set before you (Heb.12:2).”

- Jonah had to stop running from himself to come to terms with God (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).

- Jonah has convinced himself that he could make his own life choices apart from God's revealed will (Gal.5:1, 13; Jonah 1:1-3; Eph.4:23) (renewing the mind).
- Jonah had to return to the place in the Will of God that he failed to walk by faith.

(Jonah 3:1-2) "**Now the Lord came to Jonah the second time**, saying go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you." (Jonah 1:1-3).

God desires for the Spiritually Advancing Believer to do His will.

(Eph.6:6b) "Doing the will of God from the heart."

(Heb.11:6) "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that the He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

We are instructed to "**walk** (p.a.ind.1pl/ peripateo) **by faith, not by sight**." (2 Cor.5:7; John 16:33)

3. Here is what we learn from Jonah about prayer,

"It doesn't matter how long you pray or how fervently you pray if you do not pray according to the will of God with a desire to do His will."

(Col.4:12) "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bond slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, **always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers**, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God."

(1 John 5:14-15) "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, **if we ask** anything according to His will, He hears us. **And if we know** that He hears us in whatever we ask, **we know that** we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

(Phil.4:6-7) "Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God**. And the **peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**."

(Col.4:2-3) "Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned."

- **In this lesson**, we have studied the aspect of PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
 - That involved praying (without intervals of space and time)
- **In our next lesson** we will study the aspects of PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
 - That involved praying (in intervals of space and time)