

A BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS  
PART 3-CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER  
ROMANS 12:12

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**Introduction:**

- I. WE ARE TO BE SINCERE IN OUR LOVE...
- II. WE ARE TO BE HOLY IN OUR ATTITUDE AND WALK BEFORE THE LORD AND OTHERS...
- III. WE ARE TO BE KINDLY AFFECTIONED ONE TO ANOTHER WITH BROTHERLY LOVE...
- IV. WE ARE TO BE HUMBLE IN OUR DESIRES...
- V. **WE ARE TO BE DILIGENT IN OUR DEALINGS! (Vs. 11-21)**  
WE ARE NOT TO BE SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS! (Vs 11a)  
WE ARE TO BE FERVENT IN SPIRIT! (Vs 11b)  
WE ARE TO BE SERVING THE LORD! (Vs 11c)  
WE ARE TO BE REJOICING IN HOPE! (Vs 12a)  
WE ARE TO BE PATIENT IN TRIBULATION! (Vs 12b)

**WE ARE TO CONTINUE INSTANT IN PRAYER! (Vs 12c)**

*“Continuing Instant” = “To be earnest towards; to persevere in; to be constantly diligent in; to adhere closely to.*

**PAUL had something similar to say to several other CHURCHES:**

To the THESSALONIAN CHURCH, PAUL put it this way...

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 –Pray without ceasing.*

To the CHURCH AT EPHESUS, PAUL put it this way...

*Ephesians 6:18–“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

To the CHURCH AT PHILIPPI, PAUL put it this way...

*Philippians 4:6-7–“6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

To the COLOSSIAN CHURCH, PAUL said...

*Colossians 4:2–“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”*

**I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER?”**

**“CONTINUE INSTANT IN PRAYER” means at least three things:**

**A. It Means Having A SPIRIT OF CONSTANT DEPENDENCE ON THE LORD In Our Lives!**

A **SPIRIT OF DEPENDENCE** on the **LORD** should permeate all we say and do as **BELIEVERS!**

**DEPENDENCE ON THE LORD** is the very **SPIRIT AND ESSENCE OF PRAYER!**

So, even when we are not **CONSCIOUSLY SPEAKING** to the **LORD**, there still should be a **DEEP, ABIDING DEPENDENCE on HIM** that is woven into the very fabric of our **HEART** because of **OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM** and **OUR FAITH IN HIM!**

We know that the **LORD INDWELLS** us through **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** that **HE** has given us, but we must **LEARN TO LEAN ON HIM** as well as **SURRENDER TO HIM CONTINUALLY!** (*See Proverbs 3:5-8*)

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We are to have a **SPIRIT OF PRAYER CONTINUOUSLY** by being **CONSCIOUSLY AWARE** of **GOD'S PRESENCE** and **HELP** and by **LEARNING TO LEAN** on **HIS PRESENCE** and **HELP!**

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So, **PAUL** is **NOT** referring to non-stop talking to **GOD**, but rather an **ATTITUDE** of **GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS** and **GOD-SURRENDER** that we carry with us all the time.

Every waking moment is to be lived in an **AWARENESS** that **GOD IS WITH US** and that **HE** is **ACTIVELY INVOLVED** and **ENGAGED** in both our **THOUGHTS** and our **ACTIONS!**

*Continuing Instant In Prayer...Means Having A Spirit Of Constant Dependence On The LORD In Our Lives!*

**A BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS**  
**PART 3-CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER**  
**ROMANS 12:12**

**B. It Means ACTIVELY PRAYING REPEATEDLY And OFTEN!**

I base this on the use of the words “*without ceasing*” in **Romans 1:9**, where PAUL says, “*For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers.*”

Now we can be sure that PAUL did not mention the ROMANS every minute of his waking life, or even every minute of his PRAYERS. He PRAYED about many other things. **But he did mentioned them REPEATEDLY, and OFTEN!**

So “*without ceasing*” doesn’t mean that, verbally or mentally, we have to be speaking PRAYERS every minute of the day as we live life. But it does mean **we should PRAY REPEATEDLY, and OFTEN**. Our default mental state should be: “*O God, help...*”

When our thoughts are tempted to turn to things such as **WORRY, FEAR, DISCOURAGEMENT, ANGER, or other things that might DISTURB our SPIRIT**, we should **CONSCIOUSLY and QUICKLY TURN TO PRAYER!**

*Philippians 4:6-7*–“*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*”

*Colossians 4:2-4*–“*2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: 4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.*”

**A BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS**  
**PART 3-CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER**  
**ROMANS 12:12**

PAUL also exhorted the BELIEVERS at EPHESUS to see PRAYER as a WEAPON to use in fighting SPIRITUAL BATTLES!

*Ephesians 6:18*–“*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*”

As we go through the day, PRAYER should be our FIRST RESPONSE to every FEARFUL situation, every ANXIOUS THOUGHT, and every UNDESIRED TASK that GOD COMMANDS!

A LACK OF PRAYER will cause us to depend on ourselves instead of DEPENDING on GOD’S GRACE! UNCEASING PRAYER is, in essence, CONTINUAL DEPENDENCE UPON and COMMUNION with the FATHER!

SO, *CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER...Means Having A Spirit Of Constant Dependence On The LORD In Our Lives!  
Means Actively Praying Repeatedly And Often!*

**C. It Means BEING PERSISTENT And NOT GIVING UP ON PRAYER!**

Don’t ever come to a point in your life where you STOP PRAYING! DON’T ABANDON THE GOD OF HOPE and say, “*There’s just no use in praying anymore!*”

Again, “*continuing instant*” is translated from a word that means “*to be earnest towards, to persevere, to be constantly diligent.*” (i.e. Be serious about your praying!)

The LORD JESUS wanted HIS DISCIPLES (and us ) to learn this lesson. In fact, one of HIS parables is introduced by these words in **Luke 18:1** “*And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*”

**A BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS**  
**PART 3-CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER**  
**ROMANS 12:12**

And then **HE** told the **PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW AND THE UNJUST JUDGE!** (*Luke 18:1-11*)

We also read that as **JESUS** taught **HIS DISCIPLES** to **PRAY** earlier, **HE** told **HIS DISCIPLES** another parable in *Luke 11:5-10!* (*The Parable of the Persistent Friend.*)

**JESUS** knew that sometimes our experience in **PRAYER** might **TEMPT** us to just **QUIT PRAYING ALTOGETHER!** So **HE**, along with the **APOSTLE PAUL**, tells us in so many words that we should **never lose heart!** But rather we are to **KEEP ON** or **CONTINUE PRAYING!** **DON'T GIVE UP ON PRAYING! DON'T CEASE!**

*James 5:16b*–“...*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*”

*WHAT IT MEANS TO CONTINUE INSTANT IN PRAYER...*  
*...Having A Spirit Of Constant Dependence On The LORD*  
*...Praying Repeatedly And Often*  
*...Being Persistent And Never Giving Up On Prayer*

**II. WHY DO WE NEED TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING?**

**A. We Need To Be Obedient To BIBLICAL Exhortation!**

We've seen the commands and exhortations both from our **LORD** and from the **APOSTLE PAUL!** We could just quit right there and just say, the only reason we need to do it is because **GOD'S WORD SAYS SO!**

**B. We Need To Properly Praise GOD!**

*Matthew 6:9*–“*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*”

*Psalms 147:1*–“*Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.*”

**A BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS**  
**PART 3-CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER**  
**ROMANS 12:12**

*Psalms 50:23*–“*Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.*”

*Ephesians 3:20-21*–“*20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*”

**C. We Need To Properly Acknowledge GOD In All Things!**

**1. Acknowledging GOD In HIS Will!**

**JESUS** taught **HIS DISCIPLES** (and us) to **PRAY** for **GOD'S** will on earth to be done!

*Matthew 6:10*–“*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*”

**2. Acknowledging GOD In Our Daily Needs!**

*Matthew 6:11* Give us this day our daily bread.

*Matthew 6:25-34*

**3. Acknowledging GOD In Our Sins And Shortcomings!**

*Matthew 6:12*–“*And forgive us our debts (trespasses), as we forgive our debtors (those who trespass against us).*”

*1 John 1: 6-10*

**4. Acknowledging GOD For Our Protection From Evil And The Evil One!**

*Matthew 6:13*–“*And 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. Acknowledging GOD In Our Cares!**

**A BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS  
PART 3-CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER  
ROMANS 12:12**

*Philippians 4:6-7*—“6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

*1 Peter 5:7*—“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

**6. Acknowledging GOD In Our Battles!**

*Ephesians 3:16*—“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;”

*Ephesians 3:20*—“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, ”

**7. Acknowledging GOD In Our Need For WISDOM!  
(James 1:5-8)**

**8. Acknowledging GOD In HIS Gracious Benevolence!  
Colossians 4:2**—“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*—“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

For these reasons and so many more and because there is **POWER** and **PRIVILEGE IN PRAYER**, we should **PRAY** as often as we can!

**Conclusion**

*Hebrews 4:14-16*

And so we see that it is the **WILL OF GOD** for us to “*continue instant in prayer.*”

**A BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS  
PART 3-CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER  
ROMANS 12:12**

1. So that we maintain a conscious awareness of the presence of the LORD in our lives and develop a spirit of constant or continual dependance on Him! (Walk with Him!) And...
2. So that we might enjoy both the privilege and power of prayer in our lives!
  - a. By Being Obedient To Him!
  - b. By Praising And Acknowledging Him In All Things In Our Lives!

**Conclusion**

You will notice that these things we've shared with you tonight are merely ways in which the **MEMBERS** of **CHRIST'S BODY**, the **CHURCH**, can **DEMONSTRATE CHRISTLIKE LOVE ONE FOR ANOTHER**. It is a way to show the world the reality of our claims.

It is a way to **GLORIFY JESUS IN THE CHURCH** and before the world. *John 13:35*—“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

There are some other actions that **GOD** expects from us that we'll share next week, **LORD** willing.