

PRAYER: THE ULTIMATE WEAPON

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Radically Ordinary

¹ I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

⁸ I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

THE TIME TO PRAY

Requests –

PRN: whenever needed

Prayers –

praying without ceasing

¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹ Thessalonians 5:16–18

THE TIME TO PRAY

Requests –

PRN: whenever needed

Prayers –

praying without ceasing

Praying with an awareness that we live, move and have our being in the presence of God so that communication with him is as natural as breathing

Acts 17:27-28

THE TIME TO PRAY

Requests –

PRN: whenever needed

Prayers –

praying without ceasing

Intercession

To pray in response to the needs of other individuals and communities

THE REQUIREMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

I John 3:21-24

THE REQUIREMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

1. We are committed to obeying what he commands
2. Through our actions we demonstrate the validity of our commitment to obey
3. The primary place where we bear witness to this truth is within the body of Christ
4. Dependence on the Holy Spirit

THE BLESSING OF PRAYER

²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

John 16:24

THE EXPECTATION THAT ACCOMPANIES ANSWERED PRAYER

Luke 17:11-19

THE EXPECTATION THAT ACCOMPANIES ANSWERED PRAYER

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

So What

How practical is it to "pray without ceasing?"

What are you most thankful for this year?

How will your expression of gratitude give glory to God?

"If we would pray aright, the first thing we should do is to see to it that we really get an audience with God, that we really get into His very presence. Before a word of petition is offered, we should have the definite consciousness that we are talking to God, and should believe that He is listening and is going to grant the thing that we ask of Him."

R.A. Torrey