

**In EVERYTHING...://:****Philippians 4:6, Zechariah 4:6****1.7.07****Brendon Collins****[recap]**

"I fear this is not a praying age of the church. This is an age of toil and work and bigger, better, faster and more clever."

When Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, he told them to not be anxious about anything, but in EVERYTHING by prayer and petition. But, today we have forsaken that command and have replaced prayer with harder work, more education and shining reputations.

None of these things were ever meant to supplant prayer!

**[now what?]**

// Read Luke 21:36 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17

This seems like an overwhelming charge doesn't it? Can we possibly keep our heads bowed and eyes closed all day?

Consider this: " Always does not mean that we are to neglect the ordinary duties of life. What it means is that the soul which has come into intimate contact with God in the silence of the prayer-chamber is never out of conscious touch with the Father. That the heart is always going out to him in loving communion, and that the moment the mind is released from the task on which it is engaged it returns as naturally to God as a bird to its nest." – E.M. Bounds

To pray without ceasing might simply mean to always be aware of the REAL presence of a REAL God and to commune with Him.

// But I don't know how to pray!

Believe it or not, yes you do!

Read Exodus 33:11

God and Moses spoke to each other as friends?!?! Yes, it is as simple as talking to God. You do not need to be eloquent. You do not need to be a scholar.

Read Psalm 51:6a

God desires truth. So speak honestly with Him. He already knows everything so you might as well cut the act and be real.

Read Psalm 46:10, 1 Kings 19:11-12 and Jeremiah 33:3

Do you know anybody that just dominates a conversation and never let's you get in a word? Yeah, me too. So why do that to God?

Practice being still and quiet before Him. I am not promising you a booming voice from heaven, but as you are still (maybe thinking over a scripture or worship lyrics) wait for God to impress something on your heart. Practice. Give it time. Be still...

// This isn't working! I don't think He is listening!

Read 1 John 5:14-15 and Zechariah 13:9

God is listening! Just remember, "yes" is not the only answer to prayer. "No," and "wait" are perfectly good answers too, even if that is not what you wanted to hear.

// Do not lose heart!

Intimacy requires development. Did your best friend become your best friend after 5 minutes of talking? No, you might have liked them, but true intimacy and relationship develops over time. The more and more you pray, the more proficient you will become.

### **[challenge]**

Do you want to start BEING the church and stop DOING church? Prayer is your only tool.

Challenge each other and encourage each other to prayer! Pray alone, pray together. Pray out loud, pray in silence. Pray for yourself, others, 707, the city...

Join 707 on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month for prayer! 7pm!

### **[resources]**

Too Busy Not to Pray by Bill Hybels

\*GREAT place to start!

The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer

The Valley of Vision A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions

The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer (contemporary English)

\*HIGHLY recommended

Why Revival Tarries by Leonard Ravenhill

\*absolutely not for the faint of heart