

LESSON NO. 7

DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

DISCIPLESHIP
LESSONS FOR
YOUNG ADULTS

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PRAYER
PRAYER


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PRAYER

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PURPOSE

To acknowledge the decisive collaboration that prayer provides for the spiritual growth of Christians.

Biblical Basis: 1 Thessalonians 5:17
Text to memorize: Colossians 4:2

REAL LIFE STORY

On April 13, 1808, Antonio Santi Giuseppe Meucci was born in Florence, Italy. Have you heard his name? This man, at the age of 46, encountered a problem.

Her wife was immobilized due to rheumatism, so every time he needed to communicate with her, he had to move from his office located on the first floor of the house to her bedroom on the second floor. Meucci's solution was a device that he called an electrophone, which in 2002 was recognized by the United States House of Representatives as the first telephone, giving Meucci its authorship and withdrawing it from the famous Alexander Graham Bell.

How good that he achieved it, because that's how a revolution began in the history of communications that benefits us all so far.



WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

Paul makes a series of exhortations to the Thessalonians at the end of his first letter, and among them stands out a rather short one, but no less than fundamental for every Christian to the present day: Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

What is prayer?

Why is it important to pray?

What does it mean to pray continually?

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

- Colossians 4:2



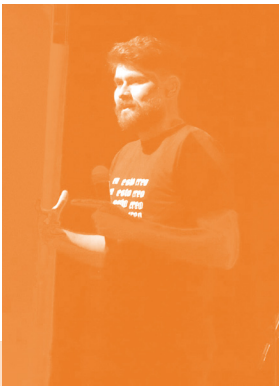
WHAT IS PRAYER?

It consists of talking to God to ask for necessary or desired things. The word Prayer means to plead fervently. In other words, it is asking God for something with intense supplication. Prayer includes respect, love, supplication, and faith. By praying we express helplessness, and we surrender any situation to the will of God.

However, when we analyze Jesus' teaching regarding prayer (Matthew 12: 22-30, Mark 3:20-27, Luke 11:1-13), we discover that prayer is a direct and open communication with God the Father in which:

- The character and authority of God is genuinely recognized.
- A clear understanding of God's will is sought and the heart is set to diligently obey regardless of personal cost.
- Daily sustenance is requested.
- Grace is asked for the forgiveness of my sins; the commitment is assumed to forgive all the offenses received.
- Strength is requested to overcome temptations, and also protection against evil.
- The name of God is praised and exalted.

Simply put, prayer is intentional God-centered communication for the purpose of strengthening and growing your relationship with Him.



BIBLICAL SUPPORT



Are you praying the way Jesus taught?

According to Luke 5:16, why did Jesus still, being God, developed the habit of praying?

How important is prayer for spiritual, personal, and congregational growth?

It responds to the following cases:

Sister Angela is in charge of the prayer ministry and is preparing an announcement to invite the church to attend prayer services and practice family prayer.

What could be a short and clear message from Sister Angela to explain the importance of prayer to the church?

Daniel is a Pastor who does not believe that congregational prayer is important for spiritual development, since Jesus said that we should pray secretly. Pastor Daniel affirms that prayer is only a personal duty.

With what arguments can you refute Pastor Daniel's position?



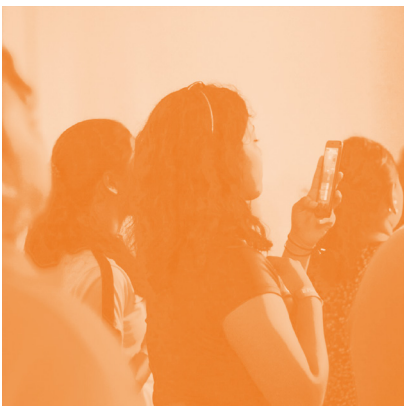
REFLECTION

To pray continuously is to communicate with God at all times and places to clearly know His will, obey it and enjoy it. If you believe this, then answer:

What attitude, form, and timing adjustments will you make to improve your communication with God?

How do you commit to influence your family to practice CONTINUOUS PRAYER?

How do you commit to influence your ministry and church to practice CONTINUOUS PRAYER?



PRACTICE

Now that you have a brief overview of what it means to pray continuously, you can describe with your words:

What steps will you take to pray?

Why prayer is so important for personal and collective spiritual growth?

What does PRAYING CONTINUOUSLY mean for the church today?
