

# Pray & Rejoice without Ceasing !

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks:  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you !

| Thessalonians 5: 16-18

God does not say, Ask once, and you shall receive. He bids us ask. Unwearyingly persist in prayer. The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks. Christ said to Martha at the grave of Lazarus, "If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God." John 11:40.

**But many have not a living (active) faith.** This is why they do not see more of the power of God. Their weakness is the result of their unbelief. They have more faith in their own working than in the working of God for them. They take themselves into their own keeping. They plan and devise, **but pray little**, and have little real trust in God. They think they have faith, but it is only the impulse of the moment. **Failing to realize their own need, or God's willingness to give, they do not persevere in keeping their requests before the Lord.**

Our prayers are to be as earnest and persistent as was the petition of the needy friend who asked for the loaves at midnight. **The more earnestly and steadfastly we ask**, the closer will be our spiritual union with Christ. We shall receive increased blessings because we have increased faith.

**Our part is to pray and believe . . . *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.* . . .** Watch unto prayer. Watch, and co-operate with the prayer-hearing God. Bear in mind that "we are labourers together with God." I Corinthians 3:9. Speak and act in harmony with your prayers. It will make an infinite difference with you whether trial shall prove your faith to be genuine, or show that your prayers are only a form.

When perplexities arise, and difficulties confront you, look not for help to humanity. **Trust all with God !** The practice of telling our difficulties to others only makes us weak, and brings no strength to them. It lays upon them the burden of our spiritual infirmities (weaknesses), which they cannot relieve. We seek the strength of erring, finite man, when we might have the Strength of the unerring, Infinite God.

You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do **and far more confidence** in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in Spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you ! ref: James 1:5

**Take the Word of Christ as your assurance.** Has He not invited you to come unto Him? Never allow yourself to talk in a hopeless, discouraged way. If you do you will lose much. By looking at appearances and complaining when difficulties and pressure come, you give evidence of a sickly, enfeebled faith. **Talk and act as if your faith was invincible.** The Lord is rich in resources; He owns the world. Look heavenward in faith. Look to Him Who has Light and power and efficiency.