

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for March 1-2, 1997

"Pray Without Ceasing"

Dale Whitehead

We are to pray unceasingly (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Does not mean that we engage constantly in the act of uttering prayers without interruption. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Rather Paul is calling us to pray as a way of life.

Our thoughts throughout the day should act like a trigger to launch prayers heavenward. (1 Thessalonians 3:6-10)

We are to persist in prayer.

The parable of the reluctant friend. (Luke 11:5-8)

The parable of the unrighteous judge. (Luke 18:1-7)

Persistent praying does not become meaningless unless the words are not connected to a heart felt. (Matthew 6:7)

We are to pray submissively.

When Jesus would give a certain promise related to prayer he would make it conditional. And the condition each time, in it's ultimate sense, is based on submission to the will of God.

Conditional on faith (Matthew 17:20-21; Mark 11:23-24)

Conditional on "abiding" (John 15:7)

Abiding in Christ means to remain in vital contact with Him.

Conditional on praying "in His name" (John 14:13)

Praying "in Jesus Name" from a Jewish mentality would mean that we are praying even as Jesus would pray.

The old adage "prayer changes things" is certainly true in a very legitimate sense. However, it certainly does not mean that prayer changes God or His will! The truth of Scripture is that God is ever using all things (including prayer) to transform us so that we are increasingly realizing in His will the greatest possible joy. (Romans 8:28)