



Part 1: Pray Continually | March 12 & 13, 2011

Main Point: Prayer is essential to doing life with God.

John 20:27 ...“Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” (TNIV) (All scripture references are TNIV unless otherwise noted.)

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray continually.

God yearns to do life with us. When sin took root in the world, God had a plan to take back His creation. It started through a righteous man named Abraham, who had a son named Isaac. Isaac had a son named Jacob. Through these men, God set the stage for sending His son, Jesus, to this earth to save us.

Genesis 28:10-11a Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set.

Genesis 28:11b-13 Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and He said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

Genesis 28:15a I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land.

The idea of this story is not that we have to do special things or go to special places to be with God, but God is with us in the ordinary places of our lives. Jacob takes the stone he had his head on and names the place where he had stopped “Bethel,” meaning the House of God.

#1 Pillow

Genesis 1:5b And there was evening, and there was morning - the first day.

Notice in this scripture that the day starts in the evening AFTER the sun goes down, around the time when we are sleeping. This is a subtle, but bold reminder that God doesn't need us to run the world. God gets along just fine without us.

As you lay your head on your pillow, with your Bethel stone on your nightstand, thank God that you are alive and share with him what is on your heart. Then you can rest.

Proverbs 3:24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

#2 Alarm Clock - New Day Clock!

Begin your new day by praying. Tell God that whatever happens during this day, you will rejoice and lean into Him.

Psalms 118:24 This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. (NLT)

#3 Cleansing

Take your Bethel stone into the bathroom with you, where your toothbrush and washcloth symbolize cleansing. Continue to lay everything before God: your temptation to cheat, lie, deceive, self-promote, etc., and experience cleansing.

Psalm 139:23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

#4 Cell Phone

Set your Bethel stone near your cell phone to remind you that God goes with you through all your conversations. As you talk with people on your phone, let a prayer for the person flash through your mind.

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

#5 Car Keys

Put your Bethel stone in your car's cup holder to remind yourself to drive in Jesus' name. Pray for people in the houses you pass. Pray for the people you drive by. Make your car a place where God is with you.

#6 Computer

Put your Bethel stone by your computer. Remind yourself that you don't work on your own, you work with God. Work with all your heart.

Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

#7 TV Remote

Put your Bethel stone where you set the remote. What you watch matters, because Jesus sees it with you. Honor the Lord by being careful what you watch. As you watch the news, pray for those in the stories who are hurting.

#8 Stain Remover Stick

This is to remind you that Jesus is the remover of your stain, your guilt. Wherever Jesus is, there is Bethel, the House of God, or Immanuel, God with us. If you are not a follower of Jesus Christ, you cannot have a Bethel day. To experience the Bethel days God wants you to have, you must first surrender your life to Jesus.

If you follow the steps outlined above, you will soon be praying continually. It will be as natural as breathing.

PRAYER RESOURCES:

- Revolution on Our Knees by David & Kim Butts
- The Papa Prayer by Larry Crabb
- Prayer Coach: For All Who Want to Get Off the Bench and Onto the Praying Field by James L. Nicodem

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