



Part 1: Pray Continually
March 12 & 13, 2011; Greg Johnson

Generate

Does the concept of praying continually scare you? Why or why not? Does it sound like something you could never do, that it's only for spiritual giants? What may be causing your reaction? Do you find yourself praying continually only when you have a serious need or are in the midst of a crisis?

Core

1. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.** Verse 17 says we are to pray continually. Do you think God literally means for us to be isolated in prayer without ever stopping to do anything else? What does this verse mean to you? How might praying continually, instead of only when you feel like it or when you need or want something, affect your relationship with God and others?
2. **Read Proverbs 3:24, Psalm 118:24, and Psalm 139:23.** Name some of the routine things (other than prayer) that you do on a daily, continual basis. Now, include prayer as one of the things you do on a daily, continual basis. How might prayer affect even the routine things you do every day? If you are not thinking about God's point of view and talking to Him during the day, what are you thinking about and who are you talking to? Who is your source of life, love, strength, peace, and salvation?
3. **Read Hebrews 13:2.** In the original Greek language, the meaning of the word "hospitality" is to show love to strangers. What is our culture's tendency toward interacting with people we don't know? How might praying for strangers change your attitude and your actions? Have you ever experienced what is sometimes called a "divine encounter" where God placed you at a specific time and place to be used by Him in a stranger's life? If yes, please share. If no, consider asking God for that experience.
4. **Read Colossians 3:23.** God wants us to work with all our hearts in whatever we do. What percentage of your work do you do with all your heart? How could prayer be used to increase that percentage? What difference does it make when you do something with all your heart? Which other areas of your life require work on your part?

Challenge

God wants us to pray continually. Begin right now! Stop and thank God for the amazing privilege of communicating with Him and ask to be reminded by the Holy Spirit to pray continually. Make a conscious decision to USE the prayer reminder tools Greg gave us in this week's message and think of new ones to use to increase your staying in praying!