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#### "Pray without ceasing"

#### **1Thessalonians 5:17**

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Luke 19:40 (NKJV) 40But Jesus answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."



## 1. If God is Omniscient, Why Pray?



## a) After all doesn't God know everything?

#### Matthew 6:8 (NKJV) Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.



## b) Hasn't God already promised to take care of me?

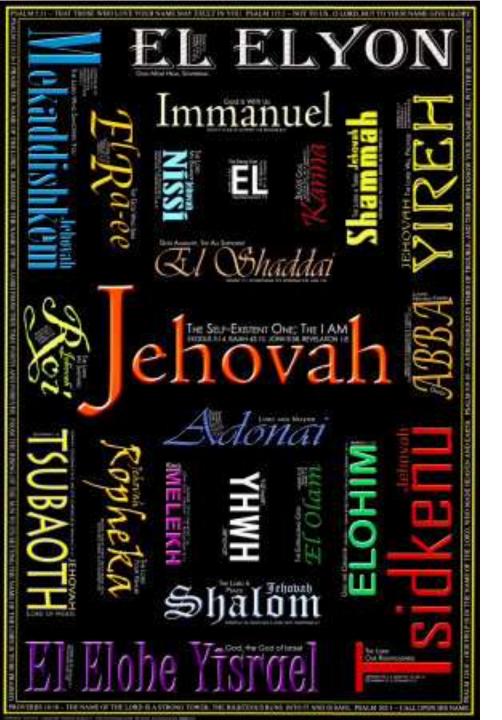
**Philippians** 4:19...And **my God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalms 23:1...A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalms 34:9...Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.

> Jeremiah 31:25...For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul."

**1 Peter 5:7...**casting all your care upon Him, for **He cares for you**.





## Genesis 22:14 <sup>14</sup>And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah Jireh: as it is said *to* this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.

**Psalms 81:10** ...Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

## c) Does God want me to pray?

Romans 8:26 (NKJV) ...For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought..

## d) Do I even really know what to pray?

# 2. What is Prayer Anyway?



## a) It's not about informing God, He doesn't <u>need</u> our prayers



He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalms 147:4

#### Psalms 139:1-4 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.





# b) It's an expression of assurance, reverence and dependence.



#### c) It's an acknowledgement of God's worth to us.

# 3. Why pray, because He is God and we are not!

#### a) We have not because we ask not.

#### b) God has ordained that our prayers are a part of his plan.

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1 Thessalonians 5:17 "pray without ceasing"

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Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

#### **Revelation 5:8 (NKJV)**

# ....each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.



#### Revelation 8:3-5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

# ...the prayers of the saints..

#1 - For our families and friends who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. For your classmates, your coworkers, your neighbors, etc.

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#2 - Pray that we will be the salt and light in our community that God has ordained us to be.

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#3 - Pray for our Youth and Community Center that God will use it to help us reach more youth and minister to our community.

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#4 - Let's pray for our military and our missionaries in harm's way. Pray that they will have success in their mission, that God will watch over them.

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### **PRAYING TOGETHER**

#1 - Pray for those who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

#2 - Pray that we will be the salt and light in our community.

#3 - Pray for our Youth and Community Center.

#4 - Pray for our military and our missionaries in harms way.

#### "We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties." **Coswald Chambers**

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time- waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God- it changes me." **~ C. S. Lewis** 

"Where ever the church fails to pray, the enemy is happy to move in." **~ Bill Johnson** 

"If we are to pray aright, perhaps it is quite necessary that we pray contrary to our own heart. Not what we want to pray is important, but what God wants us to pray. The richness of the Word of God ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our heart." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"We pray when there's nothing else we can do, but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all."**~ Oswald Chambers**