

Bible Study ~ PRAYER
Wednesday, January 25, by Pastor Dwight Benoit
Lesson 3

“...LORD, teach us to pray...” (Luke 11: 1)

Devoted to PRAYER

Q. What are the Top 5 things you prioritize your life too?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Read I Thessalonians 5: 16-18... “ _____ ”
(Unscramble ‘yarp ottuhwi scenagi’)

Being Devoted to PRAYER ... Examples: Acts 1: 14, 2: 42, 6: 4; Colossians 4: 2...

Point: To be Devoted to PRAYER is to “ _____ ” (Unscramble “toncuein”)

Point: Always be in a ‘attitude’ of PRAYER!

How to be Devoted to PRAYER! Read Romans 12: 12; Colossians 4: 2...

Devotion, *proskartereo* (*pros*— “to, toward, in the direction of” ... *kartereo*— “to be strong, firm.” Properly, to be strong toward something or someone.

To be devoted to, to be dedicated to, to focus on, to be committed to, to persist in.

[This word is used 10 times in the NT; 5 times it is associated with PRAYER and 5 are not.

To understand Devoted to PRAYER, lets look closely how it is used...

Acts 1: 14 – “All these were ‘*continually united*’ in prayer, along with the women, including Mary, the mother of JESUS, and HIS disciples.”

Acts 2: 42 – “And they ‘*devoted*’ themselves to the apostles’ teachings, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.”

Acts 6: 4 – “But we will ‘*devote*’ ourselves to prayer and to the preaching ministry.”

Romans 12: 12 – “Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be ‘*persistent*’ in prayer.”

Colossians 4: 2 – “ ‘*Devote*’ yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving.”

Q. Now how do you describe what it means to be Devoted to PRAYER?

Q. What things have caused you to become Devoted to PRAYER?

Let's look at 5 other usages of the word "devote" in the NT...

1. Mark 3: 9 – "Then **HE** told **HIS** disciples to have a small boat 'ready' for **HIM**, so the crowd would not crush **HIM**."
2. Acts 8: 13 – "Then even Simon himself believed. And after he was baptized, 'he went around constantly' with Philip and was astounded as he observed the signs and great miracles that were being performed."
3. Acts 10: 7 – "When the angel who spoke to him had gone, he called two of his household slaves and a devout soldier, who was of those who 'attended' him."
4. Romans 13: 6 – "And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are **GOD'S** public servants 'continually attending' to these tasks."
5. Acts 2: 46 – "And they, 'continuing daily' with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart..."

Devotion involves *committing* to something *consistently* and *frequently*."

How to be Devoted to **PRAYER!**

- a. Schedule times of **Prayer**.

(Daily, morning, evening, noon... 2 or 20 minutes... it will grow!)

Examples: Psalms 55: 16, 17; Daniel 6: 10-11; Mark 1: 35 ...

Our *lives* ought to be **prayer** times...

Write down your petitions—date them—notice when they are answered—**Praise GOD!**

- b. Spontaneous Times of **PRAYER!** (Write out 1 Thessalonians 5: 17 below...)

Newness – new day, new week, new year, new baby, new car, new job...

Need – Matthew 6: 11

Confusion – *confess* your uncertainty (Phil. 4: 6-7); *confront* your limitations (Psalm 147: 10), *express* your **Faith in GOD** (*Dead faith*, James 2: 17; *Demonic Faith*, James 2: 19; *Vain Faith* (Matthew 7: 21-23; *Saving Faith* (John 3: 16) and *affirm* your Trust (Psalms 139: 14.)

Crisis – when 'crisis' come, we have either just gone through one, we are going through one now, or it's just ahead. Change is not easy to adjust too... Do know, Hebrews 13: 8; 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18; Ecclesiastes 3: 1.