



***“Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer”
Col.4:2 (AMPC).***

***“Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your Prayer [life],
being [both] alert and intent [in your praying] with thanksgiving.”***

We go on now to a Seventh Principle for Christian living – Prayer, a very vital and comprehensive Principle, which should permeate all aspects of the Christian’s life. We are instructed and encouraged in different ways about the need and importance of this Principle in the Bible, as for an example, when Apostle Paul directed us as in the Key verse for this week. But Jesus was the first to direct that *“they should always pray and never give up.”*¹² He further directed His disciples, and by extension Christians of every age, to, *“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation.”*¹³ He was also described as, *“Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went to a solitary place to pray.”*¹⁴ Prayer for Jesus was therefore a Lifestyle, and this should also characterize His followers. For if the Son of God, who was both God and Man while on earth physically, found it necessary to pray, what about mere mortals who are just flesh but for the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ? King David stated, *“I love them, but they try to destroy me with accusations even as I am praying for them”*¹⁵ describing the challenge of living in a fallen world. King Jehoshaphat also prayed, *“Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast army that comes against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”*¹⁶ In the Epistles (Letters), we find many instructions and directives to pray: *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by Prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*¹⁷ *“Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*¹⁸ *“First of all, then, I urge that petitions, Prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone.”*¹⁹ *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, persistent in Prayer.”*²⁰ *“Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of Prayer and petition. To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your Prayers for all the saints.”*²¹ *“Therefore confess your sins to each other so that you may be healed. The Prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail.”*²² *“And this is the confidence that we have before Him: if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”*²³ In the Christian’s Armour as described by Apostle Paul, Prayer is a vital element in it.²⁴ And just like his Master, Apostle Peter warned, *“Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in your faith ...”*²⁵

These are some of the many instructions and directions about Prayer in the Bible, which also give indication about the different forms that Prayer should take, as can be seen in the instruction to pray as found in 1Timothy 2:1, for an example. But whatever the form, a Prayer will be considered effective if it is done under the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit, and focussed on pleasing God, and according to His Will. The focus of this series therefore, will not be on a detailed discussion of the various forms of Prayer, but rather on the encouragement to Pray because of its importance to a successful Christian life. In this line, Prayer must be seen as a Lifestyle, An Integral Part Of The Way Of Life Of The Christian, which is perhaps one of the reasons Jesus stated that Men should always pray and not give up. ‘Always’ is continuous, and to be ‘Steadfast’ and ‘Alert’ is active, just like a soldier on the battle field, or on guard at the barrack. Any neglect can cause colossal harm to not just the soldier but the whole army. This is what happens in Christianity, hence we are warned that when one fails, all fail.²⁶ Many times, we pray only because there is a problem or a need. While there is nothing wrong with this reason, to make it the only reason why we pray, defeats the purpose of Prayer. Prayer is the most effective means of communicating with our Heavenly Father, who though is Almighty, still wants to relate with us as Father and children. I do not think that parents will be very happy with their children if the only time they speak with them is when they ask for one need or the other to be provided or met for them. I love to have my children sit with me and just talk about general things, especially about jokes, and how they are engaging with life, in the course of which they can also address challenges and disappointments. This is the same with the Almighty God. He is our Father and loves to relate with us. He displayed this from the beginning, when he would visit Adam and Eve in the cool of the Evening. He did the same when He came to Cain while he was facing the contemplation of a heinous sin and advised him against such a crime.²⁷ Therefore, Christians lose out on the great blessings of just remaining in the presence of their Father and sharing fellowship with Him. But when Prayer is a Lifestyle, we would speak with God about fun things, joyful as well as painful things, little as well as big things, when we take time apart to pray, and when walking or working and we whisper appreciations, gratitude, as well as challenges to Him. In this way we practice His presence with us, and the fact that *“in Him we live, and move and have our being.”*²⁸



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The enemy, satan, is always busy, prowling around seeking whom to devour. This fact has been made known to Christians yet we often go to sleep not keeping watch as we are admonished to do. Worse still, we seem to be so easily satisfied with small or provisional victories and stop praying. **While we literally take our rest and spiritually go to sleep, satan continues to work to undo us, seeks for openings, and use besetting sins, and before we realize what is happening, he hits us below the belt, so to speak.** Then we panic and rush to pray, sometimes going to the wrong sources which further put us in the firm grip of satan. It is just like the parable of the farmer who sowed good seeds, but while he was asleep the devil went and sowed tares among the good seeds.¹⁹ **We literally act like a soldier in a war situation who leaves his arms and ammunition in some obscure corner and galivants around the battle field. Of course, such a soldier will make himself an easy target for the enemy. While such description seems simplistic or unrealistic, is that not what we do when we fail to pray regularly, blaming it on busy schedules and other excuses? Real or serious Prayer becomes an emergency, when it should be an integral part of our life.** It is like the work of fire fighters about whom you hear nothing until there is a fire outbreak or some other emergencies. **The negative aspect of this behaviour is that we treat God as if He is only good to solve problems or meet our needs. He is not the Almighty who deserves our continuous worship, service, and adoration. This then is the reflection of the poverty of Christian living, which is not effective, but just routine.** The hymn, ‘Christian seek not yet repose’ should be a good operative word for the Christian. While Jesus has won the victory over satan for the Christian, it is the responsibility of the Christian to maintain that victory, and Prayer is one of the most important ways of maintaining the victory. **Effective Prayer brings the forces of heaven to our side in our Christian work and walk.**²⁰

Therefore, Christians must be reminded that Christianity is first and foremost about a relationship with the Heavenly Father. He created us for that purpose, hence even when we failed and fell into the hands and vice-grip of satan, headed for eternal damnation, He made His Only Begotten Son the Propitiation for our failure. There must therefore be an effective and active, and on-going relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through constant Prayer, which is not just about making demands for needs to be met or problems solved. It is such a type of life that can show forth the attributes of the Triune God, and the Fruits of the Spirit, which properly display true Christianity that can bring others back to Christ. An effective Prayer life is a vital element in developing and attaining to such an effective Christian life. Prayer then should be seen just like the air we breathe, which is the key element in sustaining our lives. We must therefore remember the warnings, ***“Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” “To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your Prayers for all the saints.”*** And so, Jesus warned, ***“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation.”***

Let Prayer Be Your Lifestyle!

Have A God Centred And Focussed 2026.

Further & Daily Readings: Colossians 4:2-3; Eph.6:11-18. 1.Col.4:2; 2. Luke 18:1; 3. Matt. 26:41; 4. Mark 1:35; 5. Psalm 109:4; 6. 2Chron.20:12; 7.Phil. 4:6; 8. 1Thess.5:17; 9. 1Tim 2:1; 10. Rom.12:12; 11. Eph.6:18; 12. James 5:16-17; 13. 1John 5:14; 14. Eph. 6:10-18; 15. 1Pet. 5: 8-9, 16. 1Cor. 12:26-27; 17. Gen. 3:8; Lev.26:12-13; 4:6-7; 18. Acts 17:28; 19. Matt.13:25; 20. Dan.3:19-28; 10:11-13.