

Chapter 5: The Best Way to Heaven is to Use Knee Mail

Life Application Verses:

Matthew 6: 9-13. Jesus speaking to his disciples: “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”

In the beginning of the book, I mentioned that this text was not about those who have attended seminary or earned a PhD in Bible Studies; rather, this book is about those of us who simply believe in a God that has provided us salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ. With that said, let’s take a look at ‘everyday’ prayer, like the kind that occurs in the homes of countless Christians across this nation and across the world. The first question is really so simple it’s almost



embarrassing to ask: Do you pray? If your response is no, then please start and keep reading, and if you do, please continue and keep reading. “Everyday” prayer is just that: every day, without ceasing. As God gives us instruction in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

To those of us who have not been trained to ‘deeply understand’ the Bible, the original Greek, the root words in Hebrew, or the background of scripture, what is prayer? Is it a formal requirement that God has placed on us so that we will be obedient and go to our knees in the AM and PM of each day? I like to think of prayer as a time of sharing, growth, fellowship, quietness in the busyness of life, listening to the voice of God in the Holy Spirit, and a time to shed some tears *and* rejoice. Moreover, I don’t think of prayer as a time that I say Amen to what I am talking to God about and then I turn off the receiver. No, to me prayer is a continual and open channel to God on my radio receiver. Prayer is like when we were kids and we would get two cups and a long string and tie the cups together and hold the cups to our ears and pull the string tight. You could actually hear something, although it might need an interpreter. But

not so with God and the ‘cups and string’ have been replaced with the Holy Spirit. Talk about an upgrade plan!!!

When I pray, my God and I have two transmitters/receivers, one on each end. These ‘transceivers’ need no batteries as they are supplied by God—they have Holy Power that never runs down. These batteries embarrass the Energizer Bunny (and I like that Bunny!). They are open-mike at all times and the least bit of sound triggers them into operation. Now, on the one end, God is there listening. On the other end are us. In between us and God, the distance is either 5x5, meaning the connection is perfect, or there is a lot of noise and we tend to ‘say again, I repeat, say again!’ The key element to communications—Prayer—is that we must speak from our heart, whether we actually voice the words aloud or speak from our minds. As God instructed, He said to “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” I want to speak to each part of this scripture, as well as the Life Application Verses, but first—let’s talk about what the ‘pray without ceasing’ really means to those of us in the ordinary and daily struggles of life—the Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good...

A formal definition from Webster is: Prayer is a petition to God in word or thought; an earnest request or wish; the act or practice of praying to God; or something prayed for. This definition leads me to believe that when I have a concern or a need or a desire or a dream or a request or just the need to talk to God, I **should** pray—no, let’s change that to **must** pray. Prayer is a conversation just like any other conversation, except in this case, we are praying to a Holy God, a God who made all things and gave us the free-will ability to know and understand; He is the God who gives us the very breath that we breathe and the creator of the Earth and Heavens in which we exist. And He says that we should ‘pray without ceasing.’ Thus, this means we should never stop talking to God about whatever concerns we have or giving Him Praise, Worship, and Honor.

Sometimes when we are in a talkative mood, do our wives or husbands pay attention to everything going on in the conversation? The ‘average’ response might be ‘no way!’ They are pretty good listeners, but when I want to talk up a storm, they listen for a while and then head for shelter from the storm. I think our tendency is to give our spouse the best listening we can, but we might need to do better on that front. God, on the other hand, never tires of our

prayers—or why would He tell us to pray without ceasing? Without ceasing means just that: “Do not stop talking to Me”, He says. In fact, in those verses, God tells us to pray without ceasing, rejoice, give thanks, for “this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” This is His will! I, for one, don’t think that we should use prayer for a grip session; rather, use prayer for what your concerns are—all of them, but give God the respect due and make your concerns known whatever those are, whether they are your feelings that He is not listening or responding to your prayer for healing and so forth. Talk with God, not at Him!

Now, I don’t know why God moves as He does, because His ways and thoughts are not like our ways or thoughts. He sees what we cannot know and He moves for our benefit. I’ve been in situations in which I have prayed and the answer seemed to be something other than what I asked Him for, only to discover that the response or answer fit precisely into the overall life pattern-needs that I had. Life, death, sickness, tragedy—to reiterate, I don’t know how or why God moves in these things in our lives the way that He does, but He surely knows! My job, even when I am in such physical pain or hurt from the loss of a loved one, is to pray without ceasing. My eyes may be so full of tears at times that I can’t even see the words on the pages of my Bible, but in the deepest part of my heart and soul, I hear that ‘still, small voice’ from Him. In the midst of my prayer or my groans of hurt, I hear his voice call my name; “Ken, be faithful and serve Me. I have heard your prayer and seen your tears and I will comfort you.”

As a Christian, a true believer in Jesus Christ as the risen Son of God, have you ever heard that voice when you are in prayer? If not, I encourage you to ask God to speak to you through the Holy Spirit, to let the Holy Spirit move in your Soul like you have never experienced before! And one of the most glorious things in life is to feel the Holy Spirit move in your soul like a mighty wind blowing across your heart; you will know that it is God the Holy Spirit, and you will rejoice and give Praise to your God. I am not making this up folks!!!! IT IS REAL...

Can you pray (communicate) with God continually at all times of the day or night? There are not many absolutes in life, but this is surely one of them. Have you ever been in a situation in which you were unsure of the words to speak? This might have been a situation where you were teaching a Bible Study group; it may have been a first-time encounter with someone and opportunity knocks to witness to this stranger; or, a medical test for which you are

uncomfortable. You know, as well as I do, that we can ask God at the very moment of these experiences for His help, guidance, comfort, and even the very words to speak. This is the epitome of praying without ceasing—to be in communication with God at all times, verbally or mentally. He is listening for our signal to start the conversation, and we bring our concerns, petitions, and Praise to Him. I think of this as Prayerversation! You know-conversation with God!

Prayerversation is the combination of prayer and casual conversation/communications. Sort of like a conversation with a good friend or family member that you love and enjoy talking with them. You talk about issues that impact you, life events, and often ask each other questions and seek advice. That's Prayerversation. At times, you go to your knees to seek God's Face on important issues and concerns; yet, in your daily life that same prayer/concern is never closed, and you talk to God about it all day and into the night; you are perpetually thinking about Him, and His Grace, Love, and Mercy to help in times of need—and in giving Him Praise in the good times of life. You think about your situation and in your 'subconscious'—if you will—you are constantly praying to God in quiet 'conversation of thought', reflecting on moments of sadness or joy, remembering a verse that reminds you to pray about your concerns; and I truly believe that in these times of praying without ceasing, God provides many other little reminders about His Divine Providence to never leave us nor forsake us and about Christ Jesus.

There will be times when you pray, that it seems not to be working so well. For example, have you ever tried to pray and it seems that your words ring hollow to your own ears or mind? I've been in that situation and I have learned that if I take this 'feeling' to be God's anger towards me, I miss out on His blessing. Here's why. Remember the following example in Luke 18: 35-43: "As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this was. They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he called out, saying, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' And he said, 'Lord, I want to regain my sight!' And Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith

has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.”

Just as this blind man kept calling on Jesus, you keep right on praying. If your words seem to be void, keep praying, ask God to give you discernment as to what you should pray; seek his Forgiveness at the Throne of Mercy and Grace. Never stop praying, keep calling out, be diligent and as Jesus said, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.’ Pray without ceasing. When I have fellowship with God, if my prayer seems to bounce off the ceiling, I seek Him even more. I ask for forgiveness for what has not been pleasing in His sight, but I keep praying. And so should you. We may not understand the power that God grants us in prayer, but that is our talking to a God that holds all power in this world—both seen and unseen. Prayer is a mighty force and He has given us this power! When the words seem hollow, pray even more! Get on your knees, lay face down in the floor, cry out to Him, but NEVER stop praying!

Returning to the Life Application Verses, think of it this way: put YOU in the words that Jesus gave us. You see, our Faith in Jesus and our devotion to God is not a detached process. It is a living, breathing, active, hands-on Faith. Being a Christian is not “them”, it is **you** and **me!** Me and you are loved by a God that has all power. In God’s Mercy and Grace, let me say it this way: “My Father, who lives in Heaven—my Eternal Home—Holy is Your Name above all Names; Worthy is the Lamb Jesus Christ who died and rose to Life for my sins; let Your Kingdom come to reside in me as I serve You in fulfilling Your will in my daily life here on Earth as You use my fellowship to demonstrate Your Holiness in Heaven; grant me my daily portion so that I might not be rich and forget you nor have poverty and profane the name of my God; forgive me of my sins as I confess and repent of them before Your Throne of Grace and Mercy and teach me to forgive those who would trespass against me in this life; provide a Light unto my path that I might avoid the snares of my enemy and refrain from evil that would cause my fellowship with You to be broken or harmed; for You, O God, are the essence of the Majesty of Heaven, and in Your Hands are the Power, Glory, and Honor of all things forever. Amen.”

Pray without ceasing; thank God, in Christ Jesus, for His blessings. If you believe that you need something, pray about that concern. If your child is sick or a parent has a life-threatening

illness, *pray without ceasing and with expectation*. We may not always get the response from God that we expect; but even in my tears of loss I believe that God has that Christian loved one in His care at the very moment of my tears and prayer. We can't see the outcome now because our eyes see through the glass darkly; but one day, we shall know His reasons as we reunite with loved ones. Life is a tough thing; it is not a guarantee that all is well at all times. Pray to God when times are tough, and open your heart. But also pray to God and give Him thanks for the good we receive and lift up continually your desires, concerns, petitions, and needs. He is Faithful as HE promised, but we must be Faithful on our end of the transmitter/receiver process also. The Best Way to Heaven is to Use Knee Mail—I promise you this is True, not because I said so, but because our Holy and Mighty God promised it is true in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Heavenly Minded is to pray without ceasing to hear what God says to us; Earthly Good is faithfully acting on what God has told us.

A Question of Curiosity:

If all of your Prayers were to be recorded in a book, would they fill up a page, a chapter, or the entire book? Pray without ceasing and remember the model Prayer that Jesus gave us: “Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” No matter what translation of the Holy Word of God you use, the message is the same. Jesus said that this is the way we should pray: give God Honor, seek His Blessing on our life as we have need, and give Him the Glory of His Majesty. Remember that Prayer works; Jesus declared this Truth for us while He walked among men, to share the Good News that God loves us and desires to care for us as a Heavenly Father—for those who call upon the Name of Christ as Lord and Savior. If you have never made that choice in your life, fall on your knees and do that this very moment, while there is time! Tomorrow is not promised to us; we only have this moment that God has given us. Call on Jesus to Save You and He will be Faithful to cleanse you of your sin! Then live for Jesus everyday of your life!!! Amen.

The Lords Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

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“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

~ *The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi; Anonymous; ~ 1912 ~*

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My Prayer For You:

Oh God of All Creation, it is my prayer that my fellowship with You will never be broken. Our time together in prayer is the most important thing in my life because that time together gives me guidance for living and Hope for the assurance of Eternal Life. Teach me to pray in such a way that I will Honor You and give You Praise for the Salvation You have provided in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Teach me to Pray for my family, friends, nation, and the unsaved of this world. I seek Your Face, O Lord, that I might know You as my God, a Heavenly Father whose unending Mercy, Love, and Grace abides with me as I yield myself to Your Will in my life. Forgive me when I fail You and make known to my mind and heart my failures so that I might not Grieve the Holy Spirit. I pray that if there is anyone reading these words and they know not Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, Father God, send the Holy Spirit to them to claim that Soul for Heaven by snatching that Soul from Satan. O God, let no one who seeks the Saving Grace in Christ to be without Hope, that You would send a Child of God to that individual and that the Message of Salvation would be presented to this person, whether man, woman, girl, or boy—regardless of race, creed, belief, or other issue that would interfere with presenting the Plan of Salvation. We offer You Glory, O Father God, as the One True God, who sits on Your Heavenly Throne of Love, Mercy, and Grace. May we, Your Children, stand up before the darkness of this world as a Light for Christ Jesus and never silence our Prayers to You for Christ Jesus or Your Goodness to us. I offer this prayer before Your Throne of Grace and Mercy, in the precious name of Christ Jesus. Amen and Amen.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next.

Amen.



A Prayer for Healing

*At every moment of our existence
you are present to us, God,
in gentle compassion.*

*Help us to be present to one another
so that our presence may be a strength
that heals the wounds of time,*

*and gives hope that is for all persons,
through Jesus our compassionate brother.*

If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

Romans 8:31

A Prayer For Our Troops



Lord, we come before your throne of grace asking you to protect our troops. Strengthen them with your power and minister to their spirits.

“No weapon formed against them shall prosper.” and
“My presence will go with you and I will give you rest”
May miracles abound them.