

Romans 12:12 – Persistent prayers

In **Romans 12:12** we find Paul telling believers, who are part of the covenant to continue steadfastly in prayer. One note of interest is where prayer falls: It is between tribulation and giving and is a contrast of ideas. From distress to bounty. From good or bad. From the darkest of days to the best of days – Prayer is central and is key

- I. Meaning
 - a. This is one word with several meanings.
 - b. Summation of all the meanings - to be intently engaged in the act of prayer.
 - i. This persistency is not based on just one quick prayer
 - ii. It is a continual steadfast prayer.
 - c. Two interesting notes
 - i. In the beginning of the church, there was the persistent prayer for the Apostolic appointment - **Acts 1:14**¹
 - ii. In the growth of the church (both inwardly and outwardly as attested to by Luke in the book of Acts) there is prayer - **Acts 2:42**
 - d. Grundmann says it best when he says, “Every great decision in the apostolic period, and in the whole life of early Christianity, is sustained by persistent prayer.”
- II. Theological implications from Jesus’ life
 - a. Grundmann also says, “Jesus, often in night-long prayer, brought His decisions, His cause, and those connected with it, before God...He not only directed His disciples to pray in this way; He also told them to persist in prayer (Luke 18:1-8).”
 - b. Therefore, we look at Jesus and His prayer life as the source and example for our own
 - c. Jesus did nothing without first praying
 - i. Before selecting His disciples - **Luke 6:12**
 - ii. Before doing miracles - **Matthew 14:23**²
 - iii. Before going to the cross - **John 17**
- III. The lesson for us: Are we praying with the steadfastness that is expected of us?
 - a. Jesus is our example,
 - i. we must realize that this is not a ritualistic approach as condemned by Jesus toward the Pharisees.
 - ii. This is something different. It is, as Grundmann says, “But this involves a different attitude and manner of prayer from those customary in the contemporary Judaism, which had fixed hours

¹ Acts 1:14 - “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

² Matthew 14:23 - “And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.”

and patterns of prayer. The disciples continued the type of prayer which they had seen in Jesus and which He commanded them. And they in turn passed it on to primitive Christianity. In this they stood apart from both the Jewish and the Gentile world around them.”

- iii. We are called to do is to go to God in prayer for EVERYTHING.
- iv. We are called to go to prayer for everyone
 - 1. Unbelievers – for God’s mercy and Spirit to shine the light of His truth in their hearts for them to come to repentance
 - 2. Other believers. Remember, we are part of the covenant. As such, we are to lift each other up in prayer.
- b. Our prayers Scripturally?
 - i. As mentioned there are three passages for us to really heed as believers
 - ii. The first is found in **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
 - 1. This does not mean we walk around...or drive 😊 around with our head bowed and eyes closed.
 - 2. But it does mean that we are constantly in the spirit of readiness to pray at the drop of the hat!
 - iii. The second is in **Ephesians 6:18**
 - 1. We are in a Spiritual War and here we have our spiritual weapons.
 - 2. Prayer is considered our long range artillery.
 - 3. Knowing that prayer is a weapon, do we use it?
 - a. This is because we are in a war that will take no prisoners and not end in a truce.
 - b. We are to be engaged in this aspect of warfare for our brothers and sisters in our nation and in our world. We uphold each other and lift each other up.
 - c. Yet we go to prayer with half interest or a dis-interest...I we go at all.
 - iv. The third is **Colossians 4:2³**
 - 1. Continue earnestly takes us right back to **Romans 12:12** as it is the same word as continuing steadfastly!
 - 2. We are called to be in prayer continually and abidingly with intent!
 - 3. Yet we are also to have thankfulness.
 - a. Not just for what God has done for us but for the opportunity we have to just go before God Himself!
 - b. This thankfulness removes us from our circumstances and situations and elevates our focus on the things above
 - c. hope from the first part of our verse?

³ Colossians 4:2 - “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;”