

## Devotionals for 21 Day Fast

## OWN THE PURSUIT

**DAY 10: Tuesday, January 25<sup>h</sup>— Fuller Experience**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**In Pursuit of a Continual Prayer Experience**

"Peter Scazzero, author of Emotionally Healthy Spiritually states if you asked me to summarize what I've observed about the spiritual condition of believers today, here is what I'd say. We are ... •

- Feeling stuck in our spiritual journey with Christ
- Living off of other people's spirituality
- Scattered, fragmented, and un-centered
- Tired—physically, spiritually, and emotionally
- Existing with only a one-inch-deep spirituality
- Praying and communing with God very little
- Busy and not very intentional in pursuing Jesus
- Struggling to stop our "life on the run."

The bottom line? Too many of us have a relationship with Jesus that is seriously underdeveloped. We talk to God, or even perhaps at God, but don't actually listen to him very much"

The Apostle Paul after just three months at Thessalonica urges them to live the Christian life to the fullest. He says rejoice to the fullest, pray to the fullest and give thanks to the fullest. For this is God's will.

Here we will focus of **pursuing God to the fullest in prayer**. This is different from the episodic or prayer event mentioned earlier in our devotions. This is pursuing God constantly, or continually in prayer without intermission.

Bro Lawrence a 17th Century monastery cook well known for practicing the presence of God says, to be constantly aware of God's presence, it is necessary to form the habit of continually talking with Him throughout each day. To think that we must abandon conversation with Him in order to deal with the world is erroneous. Instead, as we nourish our souls by seeing God in His exaltation, we will derive a great joy at being His.<sup>1</sup>

**God's presence had to be maintained by the heart and by love rather than by understanding and speech.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Bro. Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God* (Whittaker House, 1982), 13. <sup>1</sup>Ibid., 81.

**Questions:**

- Why should you pray continually?
- Why is it difficult for Christians to pray continually?
- Why is praying continually different from prayer event mentioned earlier in our study?

(Written & Submitted by Rev. Norman Clayton)

## GO DEEPER

## LIFE APPLICATION

OLD BEHAVIOR AND  
PRACTICES WILL  
LEAD TO THE SAME  
RESULT

NEW IDEAS MUST BE  
GERMINATED IN NEW  
MIND-SETS

Devotional Text

Ephesians 6:18

Philippians 4:4-7

Colossians 4:2-4

Romans 12:2

The smile on my face  
doesn't mean my life  
is perfect.

I just appreciate  
what I have  
and what God has  
blessed me...