



Pastor Scott Archer 04.03.2016\*  
Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
www.ccclamesa.com

### 24/7/365 Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Series: (Re)Discovering the Power of Persistent Prayer

#### Central Passage

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)** — **16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

**Definition:** To “pray without ceasing” is to live a life – individually and collectively – that is permeated by the presence of God.

**Romans 12:12 (ESV)** — **12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.**

**Philippians 4:4–7 (ESV)** — **4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

**Quote:** As oxygen is to our physical life, prayer is to our spiritual life.

**Central Thought:** The degree to which our lives are permeated by the presence of God through prayerful activity and awareness, is the degree to which we will experience the peace, power and purpose of God in and through our lives individually and collectively.

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## Developing a 24/7/365 Prayer Life

### Warning!

- ❖ Satan will do anything and everything to keep you and I from a life of prayer.
- ❖ Wordy, repetitive prayers are unnecessary and unhelpful.

**Matthew 6:7–8 (ESV)** — **7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

### Best Practices

- ❖ Set aside specific times to pray – at least twice a day.
- ❖ Use the scriptures, especially the Psalms, as a guide.
- ❖ Pray when you don’t feel like it.

Quote: “Hence the prayers offered in the state of dryness are those which please Him best.” (C. S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters)

- ❖ Pray together.

**Acts 2:42 (ESV)** — **42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (See also Acts 4:23-31)**

### Homework

- ❖ Read the “See also” passages above.
- ❖ Continue reading “Red Moon Rising”
- ❖ Begin to pray at set times and find a prayer group.

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