

P.R.A.Y.ing Your Way Thru Life
1 Thessalonians 5:17; Selected Scriptures
By
D.Z. Cofield, Th.M., D. Min.
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Responsive Reading – Matthew 6:5-15 (ESV)

Leader:⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Congregation:⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Leader: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.

Congregation:⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Leader:⁹ Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Congregation:¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader:¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,

Congregation:¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Leader:¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Congregation:¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

Everyone:¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

John 16:33 (NLT2) – I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

James 1:2 (ESV) – Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

Luke 18:1 (ESV) – And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) – pray without ceasing,

1. You must P.R.A.Y. your way thru life by giving PRAISE to God.

Psalm 34:1 (ESV) – I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Bless –

Praise –

Ephesians 5:20 (ESV) – giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) – give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

P – PRAISE

2. You must P.R.A.Y. your way thru life by REPENTING of your SIN.

Matthew 3:1-2 (ESV) – In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17 (ESV) – From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mark 6:12 (ESV) – So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.

Repent –

Luke 17:3-4 (ESV) – Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

R – REPENT

Isaiah 55:7 (ESV) – let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

3. You must P.R.A.Y. your way thru life by ASKING God for HELP.

Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV) – “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”

Ask –

John 14:13-14 (ESV) – Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

John 15:16-17 (ESV) – You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

John 16:23-24 (ESV) – In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

A – ASK

Romans 8:26-27 (ESV) – Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

4. You must P.R.A.Y. your way thru life by YIELDING to God's DIRECTION for your life.

2 Chronicles 30:8 (ESV) – Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve the LORD your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you

Yield –

Joshua 24:23-24 (NIV2011) – “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” ²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God and obey him.”

Y – YIELD**L.Y.F.E. Group Questions**

1. Why is it important for you to know everyone goes through difficulties in life?
2. Why are people more likely to pray during bad times instead of good times?
3. Other than pray, what are some things people do when they find themselves in difficult situations?
4. What's something recent that's driven you to really pray?

5. How important is prayer to you living the life God wants you to live?
6. What's the difference between praying to get things from God and praying to become more like God? Explain
7. How important is it to pray at all times and in all situations? Explain
8. What is the difference between praying in the spirit and praying in your flesh?
9. How does praising God help you to pray?
10. How does repenting to God help you to pray?
11. What can you do to make sure what you ask God for is in alignment with God's will for your life?
12. Why is yielding to God important to living a life pleasing to God?
13. Do you feel like God speaks to people as clearly today as He did in biblical times? Explain
14. How does God typically speak to you?
15. What is most challenging to you: *talking* or *listening* to God? Explain.