



PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

BIBLE PORTIONS

- **II KINGS 20:1-11**
- **PSALM 116**
- **I THESSALONIANS
5:12-22**
- **MARK 7:24-30**

KEY VERSE

“... , pray without ceasing, ...”
- I Thessalonians 5:17

WHAT IS PRAYER?

- **Communication with God**
 - in humility**
 - in confidence that God hears us & loves us**
 - in trust that God responds (in His ways)**
- **Act of obedience to respond by us**
- **Sincerely seeking God's face**
- **Worship – acknowledging God**
- **Allowing the radiance of God to pass through us**

What Prayer is NOT?

- **Is not magic**
- **Is not to make demands but requests**
- **Is not for God's benefit but our benefit**
- **Is not a guarantee against suffering**
- **Is not an opportunity to show off**

JESUS PRAYED (WHY?)

- **Communication within the Members of the HOLY TRINITY**
- **Incarnation – Divine & Human – Christ prayed in His humanity as a Jewish believer**
- **Necessary to get directions for His life & Mission – Purpose of the Father for Christ**
- **An example to His followers**

JESUS PRAYED (HOW?)

- **Regularly – habit (Matt. 14:23)**
- **In solitude (Mk. 1:35; Lk. 5:16)**
- **As a priority (Lk. 6:12)**
- **Earnestly (Lk. 22:44)**

GOD'S WORD ON PRAYER

- **"Pray for those who persecute you" –Matthew 5:44**
- **"And when you pray ..." –Matthew 6:5**
- **"This, then, is how you should pray ..." –Matthew 6:9**
- **"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." –Romans 12:12**
- **"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." –Ephesians 6:18**

GOD'S WORD ON PRAYER

- **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." – Philippians 4:6**
- **"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." –Colossians 4:2**
- **"Pray continually" -1 Thessalonians 5:17**
- **"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ..." -1 Timothy 2:1**

The Persistence in prayer of the Syrophoenician Woman

- **Matthew 15:21-28 & Mark 7:24-30**
- **Yearned for her daughter's healing**
- **Action was immediate (heard, came, bowed)**
- **Fell at the feet of Jesus**
- **Described the situation**
- **Not ready to give up**
- **Accepted the comment of Jesus, standing firm**
- **Was granted the request in full**

Hezekiah's Prayer

- **II Kings 20:1-11**
- **Sickness & Verdict**
- **Hezekiah prayed**
- **Confident – remember, his walk, faithfulness, whole-heartedness, goodness**
- **Wept bitterly**
- **God saw his tears and healed him**

Thoughts on Prayer

- “In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.”
— [John Bunyan](#)
- “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”
— [Corrie ten Boom](#)
- “The more you pray, the less you'll panic. The more you worship, the less you worry. You'll feel more patient and less pressured.”
— [Rick Warren](#)

Thoughts on Prayer

- “You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.”
— [Kahlil Gibran](#)
- “I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.”
— [Abraham Lincoln](#)

Thoughts on Prayer

- “Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.”
— [Mother Teresa](#)
- “Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one”
— [Bruce Lee](#)

Thoughts on Prayer

- “The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.”
— [Søren Kierkegaard](#)
- “He who kneels the most, stands the best.”
— [D.L. Moody](#)
- “Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.”
— [John Bunyan](#)

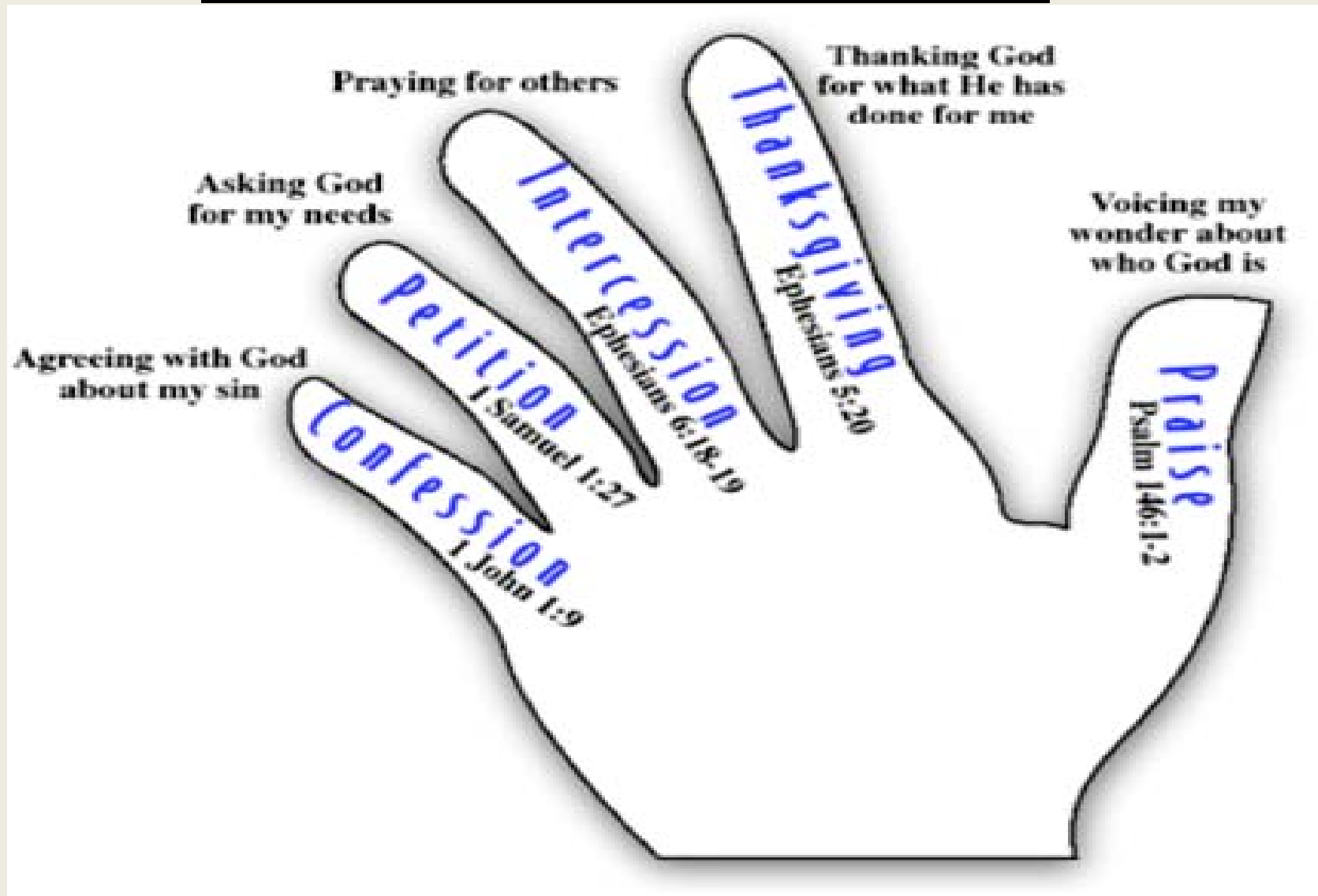
Thoughts on Prayer

- **“I think the reason we sometimes have the false sense that God is so far away is because that is where we have put him. We have kept him at a distance, and then when we are in need and call on him in prayer, we wonder where he is. He is exactly where we left him.”**
— **[Ravi Zacharias](#)**

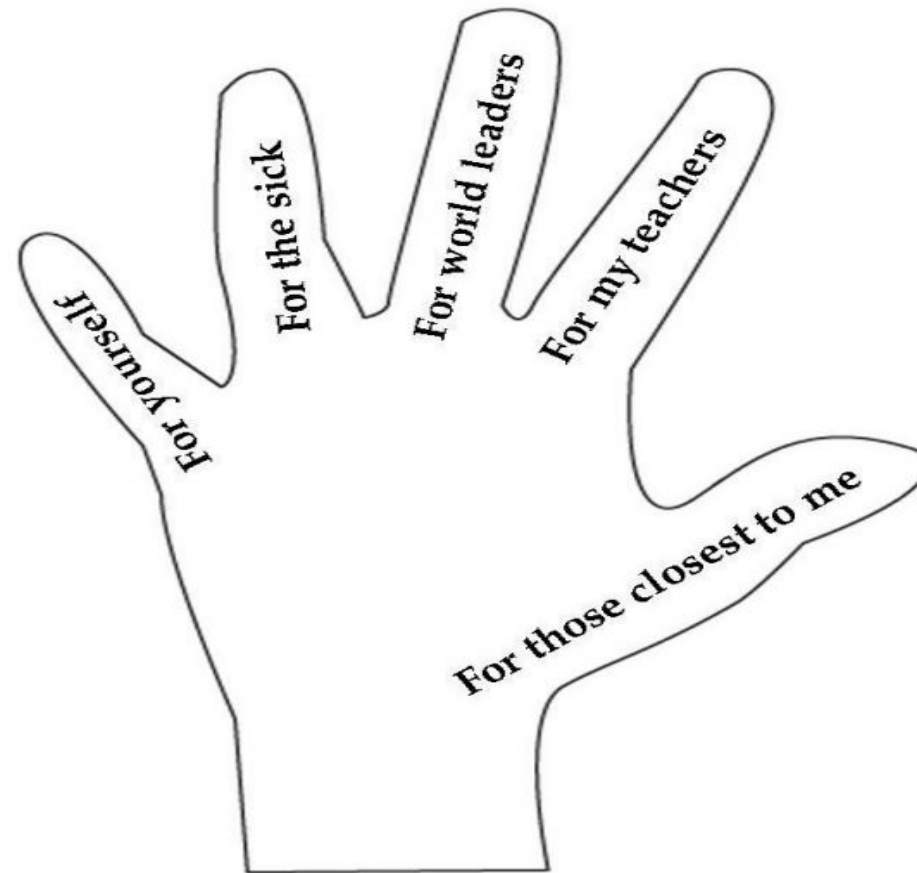
Prayer is Vital

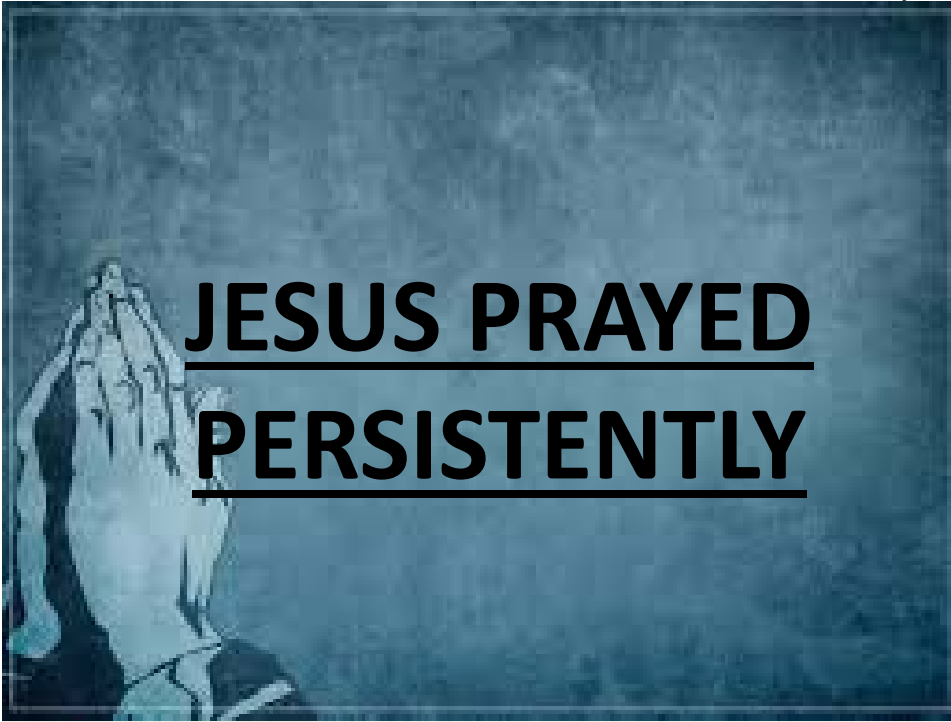
- **Our spiritual life is based solely on prayer**
- **Know prayer by praying**
- **Prayer is important for God to work in us**
- **Prayer is an attitude more than words**
- **The spirit of prayer is important than the form**
- **Prayer – the legacy to be passed on**

ELEMENTS OF PRAYER



PRIORITIZING PEOPLE IN PRAYER





JESUS PRAYED
PERSISTENTLY



HOW MUCH MORE
SHOULD WE ?