

Jesus on...Prayer

How did Jesus practice and utilize prayer in his life?

You may be very familiar with Paul's admonition in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray without ceasing" or "pray constantly." While we know it would be silly to take that literally and pray every second of our life, we understand the point that Paul is trying to make.

Prayer is a **huge** spiritual blessing from God. The fact that we can communicate with our God is really mind-blowing...and the **promise** from Him that He both hears and answers is truly incredible.

The tabernacle's golden altar of incense in the Old Testament is symbolic of our prayers - "and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God". (Rev 8:4)



Jesus provides a great example for the use of prayer in our lives. He shows us things about **frequency**, **circumstance** and **content**. Consider some of these references:

- * Mk 1:35 - getting up early morning to go to solitary place,
- * Mt 6:9-13 - a template and format for content,
- * Mt 11:25-26 - praise and thanksgiving to God,
- * Mt 14:23 - in the evening, alone,
- * Mt 15:36 - before eating (feeding 4,000),
- * Lk 6:12 - spent the night alone praying before choosing twelve,
- * Lk 22:32 - the spiritual well-being of others,
- * Lk 22:41-44 - physical hardship; earnest, repeated prayer.

In what way(s) does Jesus "pray without ceasing?"

What shows Jesus' commitment to prayer?

When the actual prayer is documented for us in Scripture, what are the spiritual things that Jesus prays about? (ex. John 17)