

## ***People who Pray OR People of Prayer?***

*“Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, CEB)*

Most people find themselves praying aloud with spoken words from time to time as they do things, such as board an airplane, take in a beautiful sunset, ask for forgiveness, send their kids off to school, or help a family member face a medical procedure. We find ourselves communicating with the God who created us, putting language to our thoughts and emotions in the hope and expectation that God will hear and respond.

But, what does it mean when we say that we pray? Simply put, **prayer is a two-way conversation with God**. And prayer is another one of the **means of grace**. In other words, prayer opens up the possibility of God’s grace working in a greater way in our lives. And so, as Christians we are called to be people of prayer.

As with any conversation, it’s more meaningful if we have a relationship with that person. It’s one thing to have a conversation with a telemarketer or salesperson we’ve never met over the phone, but quite different to have a conversation face-to-face with a friend with whom you’ve spent time and shared experiences together.

We might ask ourselves: which of these conversations tends to characterize our prayer life with God? Do we pray only to ask God for things we need or when we feel like He’s nagging us? Are we **People who Pray**? Or is prayer part of an ongoing, daily relationship? Are we **People of Prayer**? We’re probably somewhere in between.

The Thessalonians were encouraged by Paul, not just to pray, but to pray continually. To pray without ceasing. Why? Because we are invited to walk in close relationship with God who loves us without end. Conversations with people like that are ongoing, aren't they? May we be known as people who pray in all circumstances, because we have a close relationship with God who desires for us to converse with Him often.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor David*

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