

*Gospel*



# **THE GOSPEL AND UNCEASING PRAYER**

## **Lesson 23**

**Aron Osborne**

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# 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

**“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we**

**urge you, brothers,  
admonish the idle,  
encourage the fainthearted,  
help the weak, be patient  
with them all. See that no  
one repays anyone evil for  
evil, but always seek to do  
good to one another and to**

**everyone. Rejoice always,  
*pray without ceasing*, give  
thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in  
Christ Jesus for you. Do not  
quench the Spirit. Do not  
despise prophecies, but test  
everything;**

**hold fast what is good.  
Abstain from every form of  
evil.”**

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

**“When Paul heard Timothy’s generally positive report, he was filled with joyful relief and was eager to encourage the embattled and discouraged Christians and to answer their questions...Paul’s main**



**purpose was to repair the  
hope of the Thessalonian  
Christians in the wake of the  
unexpected deaths of people  
in their congregation and to  
reassure them that both the  
dead and the living were  
destined to be saved at the**

**second coming...Paul also sought to encourage the Thessalonians by explaining that persecution is normal for the Christian. In addition, Paul is calling the recently converted, predominantly pagan community to sexual**

**holiness, and the idle  
members of the community  
to gainful employment.”**

~ ESV Study Bible

# I. Pray Without Ceasing

Gospel



**“God is radically committed  
to my life of prayer. He shed  
the blood of His Son so that I  
might be cleansed and  
rendered fit to stand before  
Him in love.”**

**~ Milton Vincent**

# I. Pray Without Ceasing

A. Random thoughts, or a unifying theme?

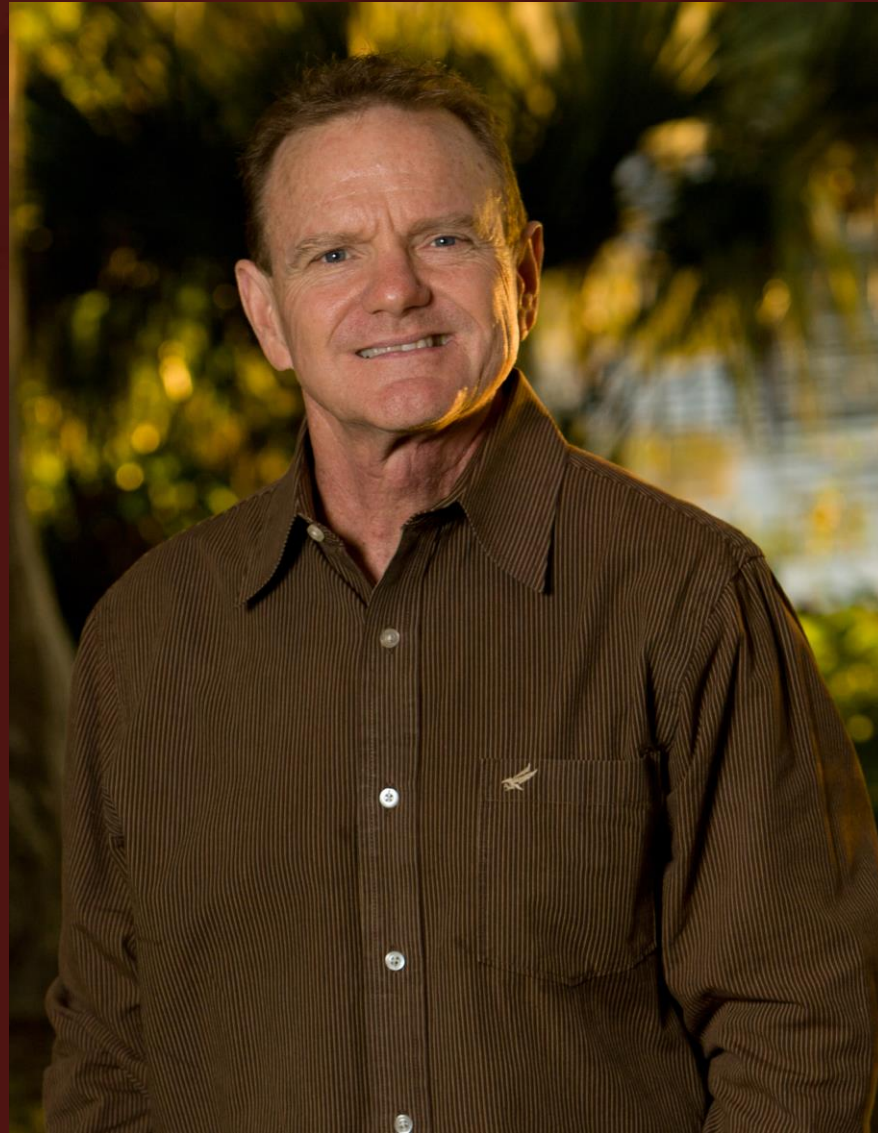
**“The unruly are challenging you, the fainthearted are leaning on you, and the weak are depleting you. But you are called to encourage and help and be patient and not return evil for evil. In other words, you are called to have**

**spiritual resources that can  
be durable and fruitful and  
nourishing when others are  
unruly and fainthearted and  
weak and mean-spirited.”**

~ John Piper  
*Sermon*



# UNRULY



# DISRUPTIVE



# IDOL



# MOST LIKE JESUS



# MOST LIKE MARY



B. There is nothing random about this list at all, and it clearly reveals our need to pray without ceasing because this is what the Gospel of Jesus Christ at work looks like!

**“We struggle with Bible reading and memory and meditation because we don't find pleasure in it. It feels like a burden and a mere duty that does not attract us. We have other things we want to get to more, breakfast or**

**work or newspaper or  
computer or TV. *Our hearts  
incline to other things and  
do not incline to the Word.***

**And so it is not our  
delight...we all struggle with  
this. There are seasons in  
the best saints' lives when**



**spiritual hunger becomes  
weak. How shall this be  
changed? The answer is  
prayer.”**

~ John Piper  
*Sermon*

II. What Would 1  
Thessalonians 5:17  
Look Like In Our Lives?

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Thessalonians 5:17  
Look Like In Our Lives?

*A. Pray!*

**“For God has not called us  
for impurity, but in holiness.  
Therefore whoever  
disregards this, disregards  
not man but God, who gives  
his Holy Spirit to you.”**

**~ 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8**

**“*Incline* my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.”**

~ Psalm 119:36-37

**“Give me a bent for your words of wisdom, and not for piling up loot. Divert my eyes from toys and trinkets, invigorate me in the pilgrim way.”**

**~ The Message**

*A. Pray!*

*B. How? Without Ceasing!*

**“God, I’m not always inclined to you and your ways. My heart and affections are like a buoy on the ocean; bobbing and leaning one way and then another, wherever the wave of the moment carries me. So often self is the focal point of my pursuits. I want to gain,**



but so often it's the wrong things. So my eyes turn to worthless things compared to knowing you. Things that will rust and decay become my treasures, and instead of giving me life, they sap me of life. O God, *incline my heart to your testimonies; incline my*

*heart to find all my delight in you!* I want my life to display the very things Paul exhorted the Thessalonians in, but I need your grace and power to incline me. Incline me, O God, through the grace and power of your Son, Jesus. Incline

**me to your testimonies, and  
incline me to your people,  
especially the ones in my own  
local church, O Lord.”**

~ Aron Osborne  
*Personalized Prayer*

**“Now may the God of peace  
himself sanctify you  
completely, and may your  
whole spirit and soul and body  
be kept blameless at the  
coming of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. He who calls you is  
faithful; he will surely do it.”**

**~ 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

