

PRAYING WITH PERSEVERANCE

PRAYER (INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA)

In the Acts and Epistles we see the apostolic church giving effect to Christ's teaching on prayer. **It was in a praying atmosphere that the church was born** (<Acts 1:14>; compare <2:1>); and **throughout its early history prayer continued to be its vital breath and native air** (<2:42; 3:1; 6:4,6> and passim). The Epistles abound in references to prayer. **Those of Paul in particular contain frequent allusions to his own personal practice in the matter** (<Rom 1:9; Eph 1:16; Phil 1:9; 1 Thes 1:2>, etc.), and many exhortations to his readers to cultivate the praying habit (<Rom 12:12; Eph 6:18; Phil 4:6; 1 Thes 5:17>, etc.). **But the new and characteristic thing about Christian prayer as it meets us now is its connection with the Spirit.** It has become a spiritual gift <1 Cor 14:14-16>; and even those who have not this gift in the exceptional charismatic sense may "pray in the Spirit" whenever they come to the throne of grace (<Eph 6:18>; Jude verse 20). **The gift of the Spirit, promised by Christ (<Jn 14:16> ff, etc.), has raised prayer to its highest power by securing for it a divine cooperation** <Rom 8:15,26; Gal 4:6>.

THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER WILL BE "POURED OUT" UPON US:

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

PRAYER IS SPIRITUAL MINISTRY CONDUCTING SPIRITUAL WARFARE WITH AND FOR THE LORD OF BATTLES:

Ephesians 6:10-20

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF GOD IN GIVING US HIS POWER, AUTHORITY, AND ARMOUR IS TO ENABLE US TO PRAY — PERSISTENTLY — UNTIL THE VICTORY IS WON!

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

PRAYING:

PRAYING (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 4336 proseuchomai
to pray to God, i.e. supplicate, worship:
KJV-- pray (X earnestly, for), make prayer.

Definition of "SUPPLICATE": "ask or beg for something earnestly or humbly."
— to pray humbly; make humble and earnest entreaty or petition.
— to pray humbly to; entreat or petition humbly.
— to seek or ask for by humble entreaty.

Supplication (also known as petitioning) is a form of prayer, wherein one party humbly or earnestly asks another party to provide something, either for the party who is doing the supplicating (e.g., "Please spare my life.") or on behalf of someone else (e.g., "Please spare my child's life.").

(ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY) Praying, proseuchomenoi (grk 4336),
refers to the state of the spirit as well as to the act.

ALWAYS:

THREE WORDS TRANSLATED "ALWAYS":

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1722 en (en);
a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state), and (by implication) instrumentality (medially or constructively), i.e. a relation of rest

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 3956 pas (pas);
a primary word; all, any, every, the whole:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 2540 kairos (kahee-ros');
an occasion, i.e. set or proper time:

ALWAYS (JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY) ,
'in every season:' implying opportunity and exigency: the mind being always ready for prayer.

(DEFINITION OF "EXIGENCY" = urgency; a situation calling for immediate action or attention; critical or pressing needs or demands)

Ephesians 6:18 (The Amplified Version)

18 Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

Ephesians 6:18 (Wuest's Expanded Translation)

18 through the instrumentality of every prayer and supplication for need, praying at every season by means of the Spirit, and maintaining a constant alertness in the same with every kind of unremitting care and supplication for all the saints,

Ephesians 6:18 (The Apologetics Study Bible)

18 With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and stay alert in this, with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:18 (Easy-to-Read Version)

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times. Pray with all kinds of prayers, and ask for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready. Never give up. Always pray for all of God's people.

Ephesians 6:18 (The Bible in Basic English)

18 With prayers and deep desires, making requests at all times in the Spirit, and keeping watch, with strong purpose, in prayer for all the saints,

Ephesians 6:18 (Weymouth's Translation)

18 Pray with unceasing prayer and entreaty on every fitting occasion in the Spirit, and be always on the alert to seize opportunities for doing so, with unwearied persistence and entreaty on behalf of all God's people,

Ephesians 6:18 (New International Reader's Version)

18 At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people.

WITH ALL:

WITH (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1223 dia (dee-ah');
a primary preposition denoting **the channel of an act; through** (in very wide applications, local, causal, or occasional):

ALL (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 3956 pas-

- 1) individually: **each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything**
- 2) collectively: some of all types

WITH ALL (JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY) -- i. e., **every kind of; implying the earnestness of one leaving nothing untried.**

PRAYER:

PRAYER (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 4335 proseuche-
prayer addressed to God

PRAYER (JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY) , [proseuchees]
-- a sacred term for prayer in general.

WITH ALL PRAYER (ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY) **Refers to the different kinds of prayer that is performed in public, in the family, in the closet, in business, on the way, in the heart without a voice, and with the voice from the heart. All these are necessary to the genuine Christian; and he whose heart is right with God will be frequent in the whole. "Some there are," says a very pious and learned writer, "who use only mental prayer or ejaculations, and think they are in a state of grace, and use a way of worship far superior to any other; but such only fancy themselves to be above what is really above them; it requiring far more grace to be enabled to pour out a fervent and continued prayer, than to offer up mental aspirations." Rev. J. Wesley.**

SUPPLICATION:

SUPPLICATION (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1162 deesis

a petition:

KJV-- prayer, request, supplication.

SUPPLICATION (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 1162 deesis-

1) **need, indigence, want, privation, penury**

2) **a seeking, asking, entreating, entreaty to God or to man**

#1162 IS DERIVED FROM #1189:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1189 deomai (deh'-om-ahee);
middle voice of 1210; **to beg (as binding oneself), i.e. petition:**
KJV-- beseech, pray (to), make request.

(THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 1189 deomai-

1) to want, to lack

2) to desire, to long for

3) to ask, to beg

a) the thing asked for

b) to pray, to make supplications

SUPPLICATION (PRAY, PRAYER) (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = deesis
primarily "**a wanting, a need,**" then, "**an asking, entreaty, supplication,**" in the NT is
always addressed to God.

SUPPLICATION (JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY),[deeseos]

-- **a common term for one kind of prayer (Harless); an imploring request.**

"Prayer" for obtaining blessings, "supplication" for averting evil (Grotius).

(DEFINITION OF "IMPLORE" = **to ask or beg earnestly for, beseech; to
entreat; suggests desperation or great distress**)

SUPPLICATION (ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY) There is a difference between
proseuchee (grk 4335), prayer, and deesis (grk 1162), supplication. Some think the
former means prayer for the attainment of good; the latter, prayer for averting evil.

***Supplication however seems to mean prayer continued in, strong
and incessant pleadings, until the evil is averted, or the good
communicated.***

Hebrews 5:7 **Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;**

Acts 1:14 **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.**

Acts 6:4 **But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 4:2 **Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;**

2 Timothy 1:3 **I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;**

IN THE SPIRIT:

IN (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1722 en (en);
a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state), and (by implication) instrumentality (medially or constructively), i.e. a relation of rest.

SPIRIT (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 4151 pneuma (pnyoo'-mah);
from 4154; a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively, a spirit, i.e. (human) the rational soul, (by implication) vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or (superhuman) an angel, demon, or (divine) God, Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit: KJV-- ghost, life, spirit (-ual, -ually), mind. Compare 5590.

IN THE SPIRIT (JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY) -- joined with "praying." **It is He in us, as the Spirit of adoption, who prays, and enables us to pray** <Rom. 8:15,26; Gal. 4:6; Jude 1:20>.

Zechariah 12:10 **And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications:** and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

(ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY) **There are two things that must be attended to in prayer.**

- 1. That it be "in every time, season, or opportunity";**
- 2. That it should be "in or through the Spirit"**
-- that the heart should be engaged in it, and that its infirmities should be helped by the Holy Spirit.

(ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY) Spiritual warriors must depend on the Captain of their salvation, and **pray with all prayer, i. e. incessantly, being always in the spirit of prayer**, so that they should be ever ready for public, private, mental, or ejaculatory prayer, always depending on HIM who can alone save, and who alone can destroy.

WATCHING:

WATCHING (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 69 agrupneo
to be sleepless, i.e. keep awake:
KJV-- watch.

WATCHING (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 69 agrupneo-
1) to be sleepless, to keep awake, to watch
2) **to be circumspect, to be attentive, to be ready**

WATCH (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = agrupneo #69, **"to be sleepless"** (from agreuo, "to chase," and hupnos, "sleep"), is used metaphorically, "to be watchful," in <Mark 13:33; Luke 21:36; Eph. 6:18; Heb. 13:17>.

The word expresses not mere wakefulness, but the "watchfulness" of those who are intent upon a thing.

WATCHING (JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY) -- not sleeping <Eph. 5:14; Ps. 88:13; Matt. 26:41>. So in the temple a perpetual watch was maintained (cf. Anna, <Luke 2:37>). **It was while Saul slept that his spear and cruse were taken. While Samson slept in Delilah's lap he was shorn of his locks. Sisera's head was nailed to the ground (a type of those fastened to earthly things) while sleeping in Jael's tent. Like Jonah sleeping in the storm, those spiritually asleep shall only awake to be plunged in destruction.**

WATCHING (ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY) **Being always on your guard lest your enemies should surprise you. Watch, not only against evil, but also for opportunities to do good, and for opportunities to receive good. Without watchfulness, prayer and all the spiritual armour will be ineffectual.**

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mark 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

THEREUNTO:

THEREUNTO IS THE TRANSLATION OF 3 WORDS:

(THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 1519 eis-
into, unto, to, toward, for, among;

(THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # autos-
1) himself, herself, themselves, itself
2) he, she, it
3) the same

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 5124 touto (too'-to);
that thing:

THEREUNTO (JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY)
-- **“with a view towards”** prayer and supplication.

WITH ALL:

WITH (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1722 en (en);
a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state), and (by
implication) instrumentality (medially or constructively), i.e. a relation of rest

ALL (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 3956 pas (pas);
a primary word; all, any, every, the whole:

PERSEVERANCE:

DEFINITION OF "PERSEVERANCE" = the act of persevering; continued, patient effort; the quality of one who perseveres; persistence;

DEFINITION OF "PERSEVERE" = to continue in some effort, course of action, etc. in spite of difficulty, opposition, etc.; be steadfast in purpose; persist

DEFINITION OF "PERSIST" = to refuse to give up, esp. when faced with opposition or difficulty; continue firmly or steadily; to continue insistently, as in repeating a question; to continue to exist or prevail; endure; remain.

PERSEVERANCE (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 4343 proskarteresis
persistency:
KJV-- perseverance.

#4343 IS DERIVED FROM #4342:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 4342 proskartereo (pros-kar-ter-eh'-o); to be earnest towards, i.e. (to a thing) to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor):
KJV-- attend (giveself) continually (upon), continue (in, instant in, with), wait on (continually).

(THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 4342 proskartereo-

- 1) to adhere to one, to be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one
- 2) to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing
- 3) to continue all the time in a place
- 4) to persevere and not to faint
- 5) to show oneself courageous for
- 6) to be in constant readiness for one, to wait on constantly

PERSEVERE (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = proskartereo #4342, "to be steadfast," a strengthened form of kartereo (pros, "**towards**," intensive, karteros, "**strong**"), **denotes to continue steadfastly in a thing and give unremitting care to it.**

WITH PERSEVERANCE (JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY) --
Persevering constancy and (as a particular instance of it) supplication are to be the element in which watchfulness is to be exercised, and that supplication is to extend to others besides yourselves.

WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE (ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY) **Being always intent on your object, and never losing sight of your danger, or of your interest.** The word implies stretching out the neck, and looking about, in order to discern an enemy at a distance.

1Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

WITHOUT CEASING (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 89 adialeptos adverb from 88; uninterruptedly, i.e. without omission (on an appropriate occasion): KJV-- without ceasing.

WITHOUT CEASING (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 89 adialeptos- without intermission, incessantly, without ceasing

#89 IS DERIVED FROM #88:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 88 adialeptos (ad-ee-al'-ipe-tos); from 1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of a compound of 1223 and 3007; unintermitted, i.e. permanent: KJV-- without ceasing, continual.

(THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 88 adialeptos- unintermitted, unceasing, continual

CEASE (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = adialeptos #89, "unceasingly, without ceasing," is used with the same significance as the adjective, not of what is not interrupted, but of that which is constantly recurring; in <Rom. 1:9> and <1 Thes. 5:17>, of prayer; in <1 Thes. 1:3>, of the remembrance of the work, labor and patience of saints; in <1 Thes. 2:13>, of thanksgiving.

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 4342
proskartereo (pros-kar-ter-eh'-o); from 4314 and 2594; to be earnest towards, i.e. (to a thing) to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor):
KJV-- attend (giveself) continually (upon), continue (in, instant in, with), wait on (continually).

ENGLISH DEFINITION OF "ASSIDUOUSLY":

- = done with constant care and attention; diligent, persevering
- = suggests painstaking, persevering preoccupation with some task

GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 4342
proskartereo-

- 1) to adhere to one, to be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one
- 2) to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing
- 3) to continue all the time in a place
- 4) to persevere and not to faint
- 5) to show oneself courageous for
- 6) to be in constant readiness for one, to wait on constantly

GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY (CONTINUE, CONTINUANCE) (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY) = proskartereo #4342, **lit., "to be strong towards"** (pros, "towards," used intensively, and kartereo, "to be strong"), **"to endure in, or persevere in, to be continually steadfast with a person or thing," is used of "continuing" in prayer with others**, the adverb representing the intensive preposition; in prayer and the ministry, it signifies "to wait on"; to attend "continually" upon.

GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY (ADAM CLARK'S COMMENTARY)
Proskartereesomen (grk 4342), **We will steadfastly and invariably attend, we will carefully keep our hearts to this work. The word is very emphatic.**

EXAMPLES OF PERSEVERENCE IN PRAYER:

Genesis 32:24-28

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

Matthew 15:25-28

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Luke 11:5-8

5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

I Kings 17:20-24

20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

II Kings 4:33-36

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

Acts 9:40-41

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

Daniel 9:3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Acts 12:4-17

4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

THE LORD'S CHALLENGES US TO PRAY WITH PERSEVERANCE:

Luke 18:1-8

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

THE PRAYER THAT GOD RESPONDS TO:

Isaiah 62:1-12

1 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

3 Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

4 Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

5 For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

7 And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

8 The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured:

9 But they that have gathered it shall eat it, and praise the LORD; and they that have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my holiness.

10 Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

11 Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

12 And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.