



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Ephesians 6:18
Praying at all times in the Spirit,
with all prayer and supplication.
To that end, keep alert with all
perseverance, making supplica-
tion for all the saints.*

I am sure all of us pray from time to time. When challenging situations arise, we feel constrained to cry out to God. It is good to pray in our times of struggle, but God wants us to learn to persevere in prayer. As we think through this idea, we discover that persevering praying is hard, but rewarding work. At the end of a description of the Christian's armor and arms against the spiritual forces that confront him daily (Ephesians 6:10-17), the Christian is exhorted to persevere in prayer. After the Christian has clothed himself in this armor, he must engage in persevering prayer. Here are four qualities of persevering prayer that this

verse teaches us.

Persevering prayer is consistent prayer. For many of us prayer is a piece of emergency equipment: we deploy it only when we are in difficulties. But here, we are encouraged to pray "at all times." We are told to cultivate a habit of prayer. We must ensure that prayer is as much a part of our daily schedule as the times we set aside for meals. Whatever our situation or circumstances (joy or sadness, victory or struggles, busy or unhurried) prayer needs to be a consistent part of the fabric of our lives.

Persevering prayer is Spirit-led. We must pray "in the Spirit." One danger of practicing regular prayer is that we can sometimes slip into "rote" praying where we find ourselves repeating trite catchphrases and thoughtless words. If we are to avoid this kind of meaningless prayer, we need to depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us as we pray. We must make a conscious effort to focus our minds on Him before and during prayer. We learn to intentionally depend on Him to help us to pray according to the will of God.

Persevering prayer is varied prayer. Prayer is a multifaceted activity. When we look back over the seasons of our lives, we should find times of thanksgiving mingled

with entreaty. Times of intercession (prayers for others) mixed with supplication (prayers for ourselves). We should also find frequent prayers of confession and repentance because we repeatedly get sullied with sin as we traverse this sin-tainted world. The more aware we become of the many ways God works in our lives and how much we need Him to, the more diverse our prayers become.

Persevering prayer is alert prayer. The word alert has the idea of not falling asleep. While this is often a literal need (Which one of us has not fallen asleep at some point while we are praying?), the emphasis is more on an attitude of spiritual watchfulness. We must remain vigilant against the evil spiritual forces intent on subverting our walk with the Lord. We must actively nurture our spiritual wellbeing so that we resist being lulled into spiritual apathy even though we continue to go through the motions of prayer.

As was said earlier, I am sure you pray.

But do you persevere in prayer?

God bless you,

Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

DEC 13

Join us via Zoom video
Please contact Pastor James
for log on information at
rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

DEC 16

In-person at church.
For teens
ages 13 and over

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

DEC 18

Join us in-person
at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

DEC 18

These ministries are
available every Sunday
during the morning service
Kidzone for ages
6-12 yrs. old.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

DEC 18

In-person service & livestream

Livestreaming is only on
Facebook and our
church's website.

► CHRISTMAS & YEAR END ACTIVITIES

Christmas Eve Service	December 24 @ 7 pm
Christmas Service	December 25th @ 11 am
New Year's Eve Service	December 31st from 8pm-10pm
New Year's Service	January 1 @ 11 am

- You can be a blessing to residents at the Gardens at Stroud by getting them a Christmas gift. Pick a name from the posted list at the Information Center and donate the items requested. You may see Tom for details
- Karen Hunter-Shay is to be received into membership. If you have any comments, please see Pastor James.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 3:15 at the Meadows at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- The Church's Annual General Business Meeting will be on January 14th at 2 pm at church. All members, please plan to attend.
- We would appreciate donations of a winter jacket, hat and gloves for a male teen size 3X, and a female child size 8
- Calvary School of the Bible (CBS) offers a 3-year program with courses on Christian living, ministries, theology, and Bible book surveys. Check out this link to some uploaded classes www.cbcpoconos.org and contact H. Lee Thompson directly at hleet1412@gmail.com for more information.

QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!