Pray Without Ceasing

Jesus speaks of the importance and necessity of prayer in Matthew 7:7-12. Jesus tells His disciples in this passage to ask in prayer in order to receive from God. Sounds easy enough, yet too often we Christians do not take Jesus up on His admonition. When speaking in this passage, does Jesus mean that we will always get the answer we want? No, however what Jesus is trying to help us understand is that God cares for us and for what is in our best interest.

Modern life is so busy that sometimes we may forget how much we need to pray. Or, there may be times when we do not feel the need to pray, because we do not think we will get what we need. Such is a result of a lack of faith. God knows what we need, and all we have to do is ask. Jesus says, "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive" (Matthew 21:22). Jesus addresses His disciples and tells them if they have the faith of a mustard seed, God will move mountains at their request (Matthew 17:20). This should give us confidence to know that God will help us through our trials with whatever we need, if we will simply ask. This should give us great confidence to bring everything to God in prayer, without ceasing.

Prayer can accomplish more than we are sometimes willing to believe. James 5: 16-18 reads, "Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit." No matter what our struggles, worries, or problems are, if we have faith, we can go to God, ask in faith, and get exactly what we need at that time, even if we know it or not. All we need to do is take the first step and go to God in prayer, and then allow Him to do the rest.

We have this great privilege of prayer, and through it, we can find comfort. Next time we find ourselves in an unpleasant situation, instead of trusting in ourselves to accomplish something; we should stop, take a moment, and inquire of God. Let us determine to put our trust in God more and become more dependent on Him in prayer. Take Jesus at His word (Matthew 21:22) and take Paul at his and "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).