

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

Women's Ministry Leader - Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Reverend Dr. RB Holmes, Pastor

"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"ALWAYS PRAY AND DON'T GIVE UP"

"Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray, and not give up." Luke 18:1

One of the greatest resources we have is prayer. It is the great privilege God gives us to talk to Him and Him to us. We are admonished to *"Pray without ceasing."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16) We know that we can pray all the time and everywhere. We can pray out loud, or we can pray silently. We can pray on our knees, lying in our beds, or driving our cars. We can pray individually or corporately. But, no matter however or whenever we must pray, Jesus set an excellent example for us by not only teaching about prayer, but praying Himself on numerous occasions for all kinds of reasons. *"After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. Later that night, He was there alone ..."* (St. Matthew 14:23) If Jesus had to pray, you know we must pray. In fact, Jesus prayed so much that His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. *"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to Him; LORD, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."* (Luke 11:1) Of course, the verses following is what we know as the *Lord's Prayer or the Disciples Prayer.* (St. Luke 11:2-4 and St. Matthew 6:9-13)

When Queen Esther faced the great challenge of approaching her husband, King Ahasuerus, to save the lives of the Jewish people, she requested that others pray with her. *"Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai; Go, gather all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."* (Esther 4:15-17) What courage and faith! I enjoy reading the prayers of various individuals in the Bible because they are inspiring and provide words I can use or adapt as I pray. A beautiful prayer is recorded in Daniel 2:19-23: *"Praise be to the name of God forever and ever. Wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons. He deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness and light dwells with him. I thank and praise You, God of my ancestors. You have given me wisdom and power. You have made known to me what we asked of you; You have made known to us the dream of the king."* Daniel thanked God when He answered his prayer. We should too. Finally, let us continue to pray for others. *"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* (James 5:16 NIV). I love the King James Version: *"...the prayers of the righteous availed much."* Thank you for your prayers!

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thanks so much for the great privilege of praying. We are learning to boldly approach your throne of grace where we can find mercy and grace to help in a time of need. We praise you for your many blessings and thank you that from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

How will you respond to today's message?
