

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Proverbs 28.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing." (NAS) I shared this verse with you yesterday and some thoughts from Oswald Chambers on prayer. In response to the idea of prayer, I received the following 2 statements from a friend.

"Make prayer your first response, not your last resort."

"Prayer doesn't change God's attitude toward me; it changes my attitude toward God."

But along with prayer goes praise and giving thanks."

I don't think this next verse is a coincidence, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (ESV)

It is so easy to put God in the position to be our magic genie, always asking for things, but do we take a moment to reflect on His generosity and give thanks for His faithfulness.

Someone said, "Gratitude turns what we have into enough." How often are you content with what you have? How often is what you have enough and that you are not always having to seek for more to find contentment, but you can take a moment to reflect on the goodness of God and say thank you?

I am guessing you might remember the story of Jesus healing ten lepers, but only one returned thanks by stopping from showing himself to the priest to prove he was clean and ready to return to society, (Luke 17) and returning to Jesus in gratitude.

Before the cleansing of the ten, how many minutes, hours, and days did these lepers pray for healing? For restoration to their families? How many prayers were lifted up for them by their loved ones?

When our hearts are full and we do not need more to satisfy our desires, hopefully, praise joins prayer and offers thanks.

Give thanks with a grateful heart.