



**I. PRAYING QUESTIONS**

**II. CONSTANTLY PRAYING?**

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice + Pray + Give thanks

Prayer = “an interactive conversation with God about what we and God are thinking & doing together” (Richard Foster)

“Prayer is, at root, simply paying attention to God.” (Dr. Ralph Martin)

“God, what are you doing?”

**III. ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE**

{ John 5:17 }

“God, what are you doing now?”

**IV. PRAYING IS PART OF THE ACTION**

The book of ACTION = a book of praying (Acts 1:14, et al)

**V. PRAYING IS ABOUT ALERTNESS**

Praying keeps us alert to God’s Presence, to the working of His will, and to the rhythms of His timing (Colossians 4:2ff)

Switch the lenses

“God, where are you working?”

**VI. NEHEMIAH’S ASSIGNMENT**

“God, where are you?”

↳ “God, where are you working?”

↳ “God, how can I help?”

(Nehemiah 1:4-11)

Pain → Prayer → Purpose  
malignment alignment assignment

**VII. NEXT STEPS**

- Simply Pray booklet
- Pray the news
- Journal
- Do a text-o-prayer



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John  
5:17

our prayer connection  
**Outward Praying pt2**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Of the three parts of the “will of God” in I Thessalonians 5:16-18, which do you feel is the most difficult to do?

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = I don't do this, 10 = I do this!), how would you rate yourself on being mindful throughout the week of the fact that God is always working everywhere around you?

Have you ever thought of the book of Acts as being a book with a lot of praying? If so, what stories do you recall in Acts? If not, how does this change your concept of prayer or of the book of Acts?

Reformer, John Calvin, said this about why we pray:

*Believers do not pray with the view of informing God about things unknown to him, or of exciting him to do his duty, or of urging him as though he were reluctant. On the contrary, they pray in order that they may arouse themselves to seek him, that they may exercise their faith in meditating on his promises, that they may relieve themselves from their anxieties by pouring them into his bosom; in a word, that they may declare that from him alone they hope and expect, both for themselves and for others, all good things.”*

How is Calvin's description of prayer different than your understanding? How is it different than how you've treated prayer in your life so far?

How helpful was it to hear about Nehemiah's pain and his discovery of his purpose? Is there a holy nagging or a righteous pain that you've been feeling? See if you can list 3 possible “purposes” that might come out of your pain.

What is your growth goal in prayer this week?

- Simply Pray booklet
- Journal
- Pray the news
- Do a text-o-prayer
- other:



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