

"Saying unto them, 'It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.'" *Luke 19:46 KJV*



Many would assert that the main duty of a believer is to preach the Gospel. I do not disagree that it is a supreme mandate, but what is the first and great commandment? "*Jesus said unto him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.'*" Essentially, love is worship; the adoration of the heart lifted up to God. How can one worship without prayer? Is not prayer the communion of the soul with Omnipotence? Prayer is the natural extension of faith. You can't pray if you don't believe. They are interdependent. You can't have one without the other. If you do not have a serious life of prayer, you have no faith. We set aside blocks of time, minutes, hours, to pray when it should be integral to every waking moment. "*Pray without ceasing...Praying always.*" Prayer is the practical application of faith. You do not ask God for it, because you do not really believe He can or will do it. Or, because He has said "No" in the past, you quit asking. "*No GOOD thing will He withhold from THEM THAT WALK UPRIGHTLY. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD WILL NOT HEAR ME!*" If you don't believe, you won't obey. God's Commands are His Blessings. Obedience is the pathway to provision. Faith impels us to obey and pray, and prayer impels us to believe and meditate. Faith and prayer are the two wings that lift us to soar in "*Joy unspeakable and full of glory.*" Prayer allows us to "*walk and not faint, run and not be weary, and mount up with wings like eagles.*" Faith waits patiently trusting God's timing to answer prayer, knowing that it will be accomplished. "*Faith is the evidence of THINGS NOT SEEN! For we walk by faith not by sight.*" Prayer impels study to learn what you must do so that you may have the requests that you present to God. The believer's body is the temple, or "*House of Prayer.*" We have allowed the world to clutter it. "*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is Holy, which temple ye are.*" What you need to do is to cleanse the Temple. Minister in the "Temple" as a good priest and keep the "Temple" undefiled through obedience. Offer the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving, burn the incense of prayer continually, keep Holy oil burning in your lamp, and display fresh Shewbread daily. The table of incense was the closest to the Holy of Holies. It represented prayer and kept the whole Temple perfumed. Prayer should continually perfume our Temple. Christ may come and cleanse it of that which hinders you; job, friends, habits, health, or loved ones. "*For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*" Answered prayer turns faith to trust. Don't let Satan tell you that you can't obey. God said, "*Old things are passed away. Behold! All things are become new!*" You **can!** Obedience is the key that unlocks the storehouse of God's bounty for the pray-er.

Is your life a "*House of Prayer?*"
Or is it cumbered round with care?
Let your soul through faith and prayer,
Be given wealth beyond compare! ~CGP

Trust and obey for there's no other way. To be happy in Jesus, only trust and obey.

"Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him;" Hebrews 5:8-9 KJV
"And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments." 1 John 2:3 KJV