

# Daily Devotional Materials

- Saturday -

## Devotion

*Pray without ceasing.* – 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Scoffers would have this text say that Christians should do nothing but pray all the time. But let us tell you what is meant. When a little child is with its mother, and plays or learns its lesson, or does this or that, does it not always speak with its mother at the same time? Is its little mouth ever long silent? And are there not many things it asks for? Do you now understand what it means to "*pray without ceasing*"? Wherever a Christian, a child of God, may be, and whatever he may do, he always knows that he is with his God, and that his God is with him. And so his heart is ever with God, and he has something to say to God all the time or some complaint or some petition to bring before Him, or to give thanks for something. And so our kind and loving God would have us do. "*Pray without ceasing.*" – But a Christian must also have stated hours of the day for his daily prayers. He should say his morning and his evening prayer. He should say grace before and after meal. And once a day, at the very least, he should have private devotions, that is to say, he should read the Bible with devout attention, adding a prayer, or, perchance, a hymn. For should a Christian merely desire to partake of bodily food and not of spiritual food as well, every day? In every Christian household the father or the mother should see to it that family devotions are held every day. These devotions should be short and good, lest, on account of our sinful flesh, we be filled with tedium and disgust. But especially, my dear Christian, when cross and tribulation afflict you, remember the text: "*Lord, in trouble have they visited Thee; they have poured out a prayer when Thy chastening was upon them.*" – Isaiah 26:16.

PRAYER. – Lord God, my dearly beloved Father through Jesus Christ, my Savior, give to me, I implore Thee, Thy Holy Spirit, that I may pray to Thee without ceasing as it becomes me, Thy beloved child. Grant me grace to nourish my poor, weak, and sinful soul with Thy Word every day, that it may be kept unto eternal life, and that in this present life it may grow and wax strong in the fear and love of Thee. Amen.

I need Thy presence every passing hour:  
What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's power?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness,  
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me?

Hymn 40, 6. 7. (ELHB)

# Bible Readings

## FIRST READING:

### **Ephesians 6:18-24**

*18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. 21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: 22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts. 23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.*

## SECOND READING:

### **Psalms 63:1-8**

*63:1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. 3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. 4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: 6 When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. 7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. 8 My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.*