

HOW DO I DEEPEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?



HOW DO I DEEPEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? (PART FOUR)

Our devotional time with god should help us cultivate a devotional heart for him to the point where there is no longer a separation between our prayer time and our life of prayer.

We have many questions about the will of god. One way to resolve the mystery of seeking his will for specific things in our lives is to make sure that we are aligned with God's general and universal will for all of humanity.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 // NIV

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Rejoice. Pray. Give thanks. These three verses are not suggestions but commands from God.

Paul was in prison when he wrote to the church of Philippi. Even though he was suffering himself, Paul shows us that those who are in the Lord can REJOICE amidst all things.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5 // NIV

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Don't postpone prayer to time in your prayer closet. As the Spirit speaks to you, PRAY continually, confess, and respond in the present moment.

PHILIPPIANS 4: 6-7 // NIV

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 6:18 // NIV

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests... and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

*We've also lost something crucial. All those little moments of boredom were potential portals to prayer. Little moments throughout our days to wake up to the reality of God all around us. To wake up to our own souls. To draw our minds' attention and devotion back to God; to come off the hurry drug and come home to awareness.
(John Mark Comer)*



**The prophet Nehemiah understood what it was like
for his time of prayer to overflow into a life of prayer.**

NEHEMIAH 1:4 // NIV

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

NEHEMIAH 1:6 // NIV

hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for
... the people of Israel.

*I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and
when I rise up. And the answers are always coming. It is not enough to begin to pray,
nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray;
but we must patiently, believingly, continue (in an attitude of) prayer until
we obtain an answer; and further we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end,
but we have also to believe that God does hear us, and will answer our prayers.
(George Muller)*

God redeemed us so that He can relate with us. As we relate with God, **may we
not only strengthen our prayer time but more importantly, cultivate a life of prayer.**

QUESTIONS FOR HUDDLE DISCUSSION:

1. Share how your prayer life has been this past week.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How can you express God's universal and general will in your life — whether that be in rejoicing always, praying continually, or giving thanks?