

# **“Yearnings”**

Pastor Al Brice | November 18, 2018

“**Yearning**” – ‘To have an earnest or strong desire.’

Every one of us has a yearning to see every need in our lives and the lives of others met and fulfilled.

As Christians, we are to bring every need or situation to our Heavenly Father, no matter how big or small. Everything we face in life, because we live in a very difficult world, we face with God because of our relationship as sons and daughters.

God gives us His instructions of when we should pray, how to pray, and what to pray for every day.

When will unbelievers or the world want to know Who we know and what we believe? When they see a body of people, believers, who seem to have something that causes them to be victorious in life, especially in our tough times. This is because the world is unhappy, angry, confused, frustrated, have little or no hope, are uncertain, and fearful. But when they see a people who have peace, joy, praise, and thanksgiving during their trials, adversity, and tough circumstances, then they’re ready to investigate and listen.

1. Prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving are key factors to getting the attention of those who don’t know God.

**Philippians 4:6-8 NKJV:** <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

2. He tells us what to avoid like a plague!! “*Be anxious for nothing.*”

- a. “**Anxious**” – ‘Take thought; to be troubled with cares, distracting and harassing care; nervous solicitude; tendency brood or ponder over things with a negative outlook.’

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:25-27 NKJV:** <sup>25</sup> “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

Jesus is not encouraging laziness because the Bible tells us in **2 Thessalonians 3:10 AMP:** For while we were yet with you, we gave you this rule *and* charge: If anyone will not work, neither let him eat. (That is, “If one is able, but unwilling to work to provide for himself or his family, it is unjust for him to receive the necessities of life provided free by those who willingly work.”)

- b. Jesus says again in **Matthew 13:22 NKJV:** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

3. God’s solution for worrying and taking cares:

**Proverbs 4:23 NLT:** Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

“**Heart**” – ‘The center of your emotions, thinking, will, and reasoning.’

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV:** <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

(We often face the attack of the ‘what ifs’ and the ‘if onlys.’ “*What if this or that happens?*” “*If only I hadn’t or if only I had done this or that!!*”)

- a. What are Christians to do?

**1 Peter 5:6-9 NKJV:** <sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

- b. How do I cast my care on God? Let's again read **Philippians 4:6-8 NKJV:** <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- **Prayer:** 'To worship'

**Matthew 6:9-10 NKJV:**

<sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray:

    Our Father in heaven,  
    Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.

    Your will be done  
    On earth as *it is* in heaven.

- **Supplication:** 'Specific petitions and request in accordance to God's will'

**1 John 5:14-15 NKJV:** <sup>14</sup> Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- **Thanksgiving:** 'Giving thanks for what you are believing that you will receive from God.' Giving thanks is a declaration of my faith that I have what I have prayed for according to God's Promises!!
  - **Meditate:** Keep your mind set on God's Word to you!!

**Philippians 4:8 NKJV:** <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.