

# Your most important time and place each day



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*What is the most important and critical time and place you have each day? Do you treat it as being so vital by giving it significant time and attention each day? This message may help you pray more. Do you have a regular private place of prayer? Does the evidence show God's children are not praying enough?*

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Welcome everyone once more to Light on the Rock. This is Philip Shields with another message that helps us draw closer to our wonderful Father in heaven and our Savior – and with one another. (Short opening prayer).

What is your most important time each day? I probably should have titled this “your most important time and place each day”. Or maybe we should step back a bit ask – what is the most important thing to do each day – and do you make the time for it? And where do you do it?

**Story of Ken and I traveling in Rome** – and having to find a way to PRAY – in bed/with his covers from the bunk bed above draped over; in the shower stall, etc.

We used to get up by 5:30 a.m. at college to be sure we prayed. But now that we're older, have jobs to go to, and responsibilities – I fear that habit is being lost by too many.

Our Master, king and Savior – Yeshua (Jesus) the Son of God said in his sermon on the Mount that we *must make time each day to pray*. I want to talk about that some today. Prayer is so powerful. That time on our knees before our Maker can change the world! Some of the most exciting miracles happened after prayer. Some of the greatest enemies are united after prayer. Some of the most spectacular healings occur—after prayer. Days go better with prayer – or turn worse without it.

## **Matthew 6:5-7**

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

**6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.** 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."

Do you have a prayer room? Some call it a “WAR room” and there’s been a recent movie with that title (which I haven’t seen yet) – where we fight against spirits in high places!

**And it is by prayer that we reset our connection with God.** We repent in prayer, and we beseech him in prayer.

- This Spring Passover season is first and foremost reconciliation with God, **FIRST**.
- Then we love neighbor – 2<sup>nd</sup> great commandment. So Passover is about reconciliation with God and with fellow man. We do this by **PRAYER** first.

**Prayer should be our holy time with God:**

- It’s a **daily reset**; the time when we set things up for the entire remainder of the day.
- **Prayer time is your “DATE with God” or with Yeshua. *I really believe Yeshua and the Father look forward to it too, when they see us getting ready to pray.***
- **God enjoys hearing from you. Give Him that pleasure and joy. (Story of the man who set his alarm for 6:33, to remind him of Matthew 6:33 – to seek first the Kingdom of God.)** I LOVE hearing from my children and grandchildren and would wish they’d call or contact me more often than they do. But **WHEN** they do, how special that is! Yahweh is no different! He’s the Father who surpasses all other Fathers - - He’s the one who put those feelings in us and he’s **WAITING** to hear from us again. So let’s give our Abba the wonderful pleasure of hearing often from us.

**People used to go to the Temple to pray**

**In the “old days” people would go to the Tabernacle or temple to pray.** People considered that to be where God was – represented by the ark and Holy of Holies. The temple, called the House of YHVH, or the House of Prayer. Yeshua quoted **Isaiah 56:7** when he said **“MY HOUSE shall be called a ‘House of Prayer’ for ALL nations (Mark 11:17)...”**

The Ark and temple eventually ended up in Jerusalem. I suspect Mt Moriah and Jerusalem’s special favor with Yahweh goes a long ways back (**Genesis 22:2; 2 Chronicles 3:1**). This is where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac – Mt. Moriah. It was the same spot! It was God’s holy mountain. Maybe that’s where the Garden of Eden was as well. Certainly the House of Prayer, the Temple, was there in Jerusalem.

**So even in the story of the publican and the Pharisee and their prayers – we’re told in Luke 18:10 –** “Two men went up **to the temple to pray**, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector”. And by the way, Jesus gave this parable to address those standing there who despised others. *Some of you despise people with a record or a past you’ve deemed is worse than yours. Well, get over it.* IF they’ve repented – God’s forgiven **their** past and now **YOU** are the one now with the *current* sin of contempt and self-righteousness and spreading gossip. My point though – was that **people went to the temple to pray when they could.**

**Where do YOU go to pray today?** *There IS a temple today.* Many are waiting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> temple, but in fact God’s **real** temple is already here! **YOU are that temple**, and therefore also his **House of Prayer**. If you are not familiar with the concept of being a living, breathing temple, look up 1 Cor. 3:16 for starters:

**1 Corinthians 3:16**

"Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

That Shekinah glory of God is now in YOU, if you are one of His children.

**2 Corinthians 6:16**

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For you are the temple** of the living God. As God has said:

**"I will dwell IN them** [ponder what that's saying!]

And walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

He goes on to say **in verse 17** that we have been called OUT from among the world and be separate from the world. It does not mean to have nothing to do with sinners, or we'd have to become hermits and leave the world (**1 Cor. 5:9-10**). The temple of God – which we are – must remain holy and apart from the sins and ways of this world.

No, we've *been sent INTO The world as lights* in fact (**John 17:18**). If your light never shines in the dark places, what good is it? Yeshua says if you hide your light, what good are you? (**Matthew 5:14-16**). The light is put on a lampstand so it gives light to the whole area. But we are not to identify with this world's ways, this world's image, what's important to this world, nor be a part of its ways. We're not a part of what gives them pleasure. OK – back to being God's house, God's temple.

I said a minute ago that God and His Son called the temple – "My House of Prayer."

**Would God call YOU and me – and OUR lives – when viewed with the amount of praying going on in our lives – would HE call you and me "My House of Prayer"?**

You're the temple, remember, today. Are YOU praying so much that you could be called God's House of Prayer? You should be. I gave a sermon on that very topic some years ago (Sept 2014). You might get something from hearing that.

Just remember, YOU are God's Temple. Yes you – are the dwelling place of God's PRESENCE, the **Shekinah** glory...if you let that happen. God lives in you. *Shekinah* refers to God's indwelling presence, his residence. It referred to the shimmering light hovering above the Mercy Seat. There was shekinah glory in the first temple, but apparently not in the subsequent temple started by Zerubbabel and continued by Herod, the Edomite (Idumean) – though even Yeshua himself referred to even Herod's temple as "my Father's House" (John 2:16).

So where do you pray? Here's the basic, plain, easy to grasp teaching from His Majesty, our King, the Son of God in Matthew 6:5-7. I'm going to focus most of this message on v 6.

**Today I want to help encourage us all to pray more, to have a good regular place to pray from and why that's important, and also why we need to be a praying people.**

**WHY is this so important?**

- Because many of God's children are bored by the "basic" topic of prayer. But I hope you'll listen.

- **All the signs tell us that WE, the END time people of God, are NOT praying much.** Why do I say that?
  - Yeshua asked if he would even “find faith when I return”. Luke 18:8
  - The love of many will grow cold – Matthew 24:9-12 – in context of God’s people. Brother will betray brother – even to death.
  - The Laodiceans are lukewarm and self-satisfied and feel they’re on top of things (in need of nothing) – but Christ says they are blind, naked, wretched and poor. Rev 3:14-19

None of these would be the case – if we are a praying group.

- **Neither do I see the power of God being released** by a people diligently seeking their God. Where are the powerful healings? “These signs shall SURELY follow”. I’ve seen a few, I’ve been involved in a few, and have been healed powerfully a few times myself – but where do you find the GIFTS of the Spirit including miracles and healings in a DRAMATIC way, over and over? If we were a truly diligently praying people, this would not be the case.
- **I find God’s people would rather talk about the latest movie or TV series – than what they’ve been shown by God in their prayer and Bible study. Is that you?**  
**Jeremiah 33:2-3 God promises he will tell us things!**  
“This is what YHVH says who formed you ... Call to me and I will answer you, **and I will tell you great and unsearchable things** you don’t know.”

**Matthew 6:5-7**

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Do you **have a private, “secret” place of prayer?**

Now I fully realize Yeshua also said that the time would come when we would not need buildings, or temples, or certain mountains on which or from which to pray. He said God’s children would worship in spirit and in truth.

**John 4:21-24**

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Do you have **a set time of prayer each day** where you put God first to your sanctuary, your **place of prayer**? Yeshua is saying, when you pray “go into your room and shut the door.” It is a quiet – almost secret – place.

At our Christian college I attended, **we had PRAYER CLOSETS** – (described in detail in the audio of this sermon). By 5-6 a.m. they would be full. So we had prayer closets. Some people call it a **“War Room”** – because that is where we learn the battle plan against the spirits in high places warring against us. This is where we can come to our Father and ask for His help and instructions – and we can thank Him for what He’s already doing, even the things we haven’t even seen yet. We know our battles are waged and won on our knees. (Note: Much more detail in the audio. I always recommend you hear these sermons with these notes. Do both, and you’ll get more out of the messages.)

So we can pray from anywhere. I get that. *But it’s also clear that Yeshua is saying we should try to have a regular place for our main prayer.* He didn’t say go to a mountain or building – but he did say “go to YOUR room...”

We all probably pray several times a day – even while doing other things like driving to work, or doing dishes or I like to pray as I garden; as I weed in God’s creation. We know when Yeshua was on the road or traveling that he liked to go to the hills, mountains early and pray there.

But certainly at least once or twice a day it would be wise to have some quiet time where it is just you – and God. Your quiet place. Your sanctuary where you and Father, or you and Yeshua (Jesus) come to talk together. And the Holy Spirit of course is interpreting your words – as Romans 8. And notice I said talk together”. More on that soon. Prayer should not be just you doing all the talking. It should be a conversation. You should be hearing God’s “voice” as well.

**When you can’t have a set place, find what you can – especially when you’re away from home, but find a place!**

- **Woods behind our home in WA** – made a trail to a quiet spot under certain tall pines, private, in God’s creation. Makeshift chair. What a great place of solitude and quiet and wonder it became. I was in God’s creation. In my quiet moments I’d often see a deer, or squirrels, or field mice, or an owl... it was great being outdoors.
- **Jesus prayed outdoors, in the hills, before sunrise quite often** (Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12; Luke 9:28) Luke **5:16** says He often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. The wilderness – so MANY wonderful things happen in the wilderness times of our lives. I love gardening, being outside – as I talk and listen to God. But it’s not my primary alone-time place.
  - **Mark 1:35** says “Yeshua went out to a “solitary place” and prayed a great while before daylight.” That’s our example. Let’s all get to bed sooner and get up sooner and cut out TV so we can have the more important time with our Maker. Remember they had to get up early to pick their manna (picturing Yeshua, God’s word/Bible study) before it got hot and melted (**Ex 16:21**).
  - *Yeshua also in his final evening* before he died, went to a GARDEN, where it says he *often* went with his disciples, to Gethsemane, the place of the olive press, at the base of the Mt of Olives (**Luke 22:39**).
- **Daniel** prayed by his window, on his knees, in an upper room 3x a day (**Daniel 6:10**). That verse says that’s where he would pray and give thanks before His God

as was his custom since early days.” -- There’s another point: TEACH YOUR CHILDREN BY EXAMPLE and training to pray.

- **Peter** one time was praying on his house top. (**Acts 10:9**). It was during this prayer that a great revelation was given him in a vision – that God wanted to call Gentiles.
- If you’re in a tough spot – you pray right there! **Jonah** prayed from the belly of the great fish! (Jonah 2:1). You will pray your prayingest prayer ever when you’re in a tough spot -- so in those cases, just do it where you are!

Now don’t get me wrong. I like to make contact with my Heavenly Father many times a day. We’re told in fact to “pray without ceasing” and that “men ought always to pray and not lose heart” (**Luke 18:1**). So I pray short clips of prayer throughout the day, many times a day. That’s fine, that’s good.

**But there should also be, I feel, from looking at the Bible examples a set time of prayer where we focus on God**, there is no distraction of any kind going on, it’s quiet, it’s just you and God – and you’re likely on your knees and it’s likely early in the day.

Some of you work **shift work**, so your “early in the day” might be mid=afternoon or midnight! And some of you can’t kneel – due to pain and other issues. So you do what you need to do without any judgment. I hope you understand that.

But Yeshua seems to be saying it would be good to **have a set place where we pray**. For me, I use the spare guest room now if my wife is up and about – which is usually very quiet and empty and comfortable. By choosing that spot, I won’t be interrupted, and won’t be keeping anyone from where they need to go. Otherwise if I’m alone in the house, I also like to pray just by the side of my bed on the carpet with a foam pillow on it.

If you have a roommate, work things out to have a quiet time and place so each of you can some quiet prayer time.

#### **Advantages of having a set-apart place**

Why I recommend having a set place of prayer.

- **It’s a place of separation from** all other things. Think about this. The first temple was built on a place of separation. Do you know what I mean by that? I just read how GOD says He will dwell IN US...and so “come out therefore and be ye separate”.

Before it was a temple site, that place was a **THRESHING floor**, where the grains are separated from the chaff. *A threshing floor separates the useful from the useless.* If people didn’t go to the threshing floor to prepare the harvested grain, they would starve to death! Our holy prayer time is a time when we do the same: separate what’s worth living for – and what is not; what is worth spending time on, and what is not. What is valuable, and what is worthless. What is holy, and what is profane and unholy.

#### **1 Chronicles 21:13-15**

And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

14 So YHVH sent a plague upon Israel, and **seventy thousand men** of Israel fell.  
15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, YHVH looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of YHVH **stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite**. [Jebus was Jerusalem's prior Canaanite name.)

If you keep reading on your own, you will see that this was the place where David sacrificed and decided to build the temple of God right here. This was also the exact spot where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac. The exact spot. This was ancient Mt. Moriah.

**This** was a time of great forgiveness for David; when the death angel quit destroying the people and did not destroy Jerusalem after David's sin of numbering Israel.

***So your prayer booth, or room, or spot is a place where you say everything ELSE for the next half hour or however long you will pray, is set aside.*** If you are a new mom with a new baby, you may have to pick a time and spot when your baby has quieted down for a while.

*But my point is: it's a time of SEPARATION between what is meaningful and what is not; what is holy and what is profane. It allows us to focus on YHVH and pause from all else that is going on.*

***Our whole relationship with Yah is about separation between the clean and unclean. Between the holy and profane. Between what is important – and what it not. That's why we have clean and unclean meats—to make us careful to evaluate what we're eating, what we're doing and so on. When we come to our prayer room – we're going to use that time to ask God to help us live a holy life, to separate ourselves from sin and the sins still in our lives. Including me!***

So when you come to your place of prayer – ask God to consecrate this day – today – to his holy use. It's a time and day when you will NOT give in to the sins of your youth (and yes, I've sure had my share that I've deeply repented of).

***The Temple – and you're the house of prayer today – was consecrated. Set apart.*** You can read of that after Solomon's prayer, read **2 Chronicles 7:12-16**.  
*May listen to my sermon on being God's House of Prayer – Sept 2014.*

- **PRAYER ROOM should be a QUIET place.** Think of Solomon's temple (remembering YOU are the temple today): the stones were all prepared in the quarry and when it was built, it was built—QUIETLY. No sound of hammer or chisel or anything. Just amazing. (1 Kings 6:7)

**Prayer – communing with your Maker -- It's the most important activity in your life.** In your room is where you lay down your burdens – and experience him lifting them. The TV should be off. *Leave your dumb smart phone outside and turned off or muted.* So your phones won't get answered. (Another good reason to do this very late and very early in the day). It's the place where you focus entirely on Him. It's your time alone with the Almighty- - who also happens to be our heavenly Daddy.

Perhaps have a "Do not disturb" door hanger you put on the door knob. If you do it before everyone else is up, you may not need that. However I caution you to avoid "announcing" to everyone that you're praying right now – as that's little different than those who love to pray in front of everyone to see.

- **Your prayer place becomes a very familiar, comfortable spot where you can quickly get to the business of prayer at hand.** It's YOUR place. A private place. It can become in a very real way – a very holy place that is THE PLACE for the MOST IMPORTANT thing you do every day. *It becomes a place and time you can hardly wait to get to. It's the place and spot you'll find yourself looking forward to being at - to be ONE with your Maker and Savior.*

**Make it a comfortable spot.** Maybe include a favorite chair that you use for prayer and Bible reading. Or maybe it's beside your bed, or maybe a corner of the house or room that is set up just for this purpose.

**Have your prayer items all together** - maybe in a drawer or box or under the bed. Your **Bible, note pad, pen, prayer lists** – whatever you need. Keep it all handy and accessible. (Hear my sermon "Hearing God's Voice". In THE AUDIO of this sermon I go into far more detail of how we can hear from God as we pray. Have a pen/pad ready. God hasn't gone mute or silent. Maybe we're the ones who are too noisy)

**There are many examples in Scripture of**

- praying on our knees (1 Kings 8:54)
- Sometimes with hands raised in prayer (2 Chronicles 7:13).
- ALWAYS BOW in deep reverence. Always.
- If you have never tried this, I recommend it – where the people **lay prostrate**, flat out on the floor if you are able – before your God, with face to the ground. Look at **1 Chronicles 29:20**; 2 Chronicles 7:3; Leviticus 9:24; Numbers 16:22; 1 Kings 18:39.

Especially when I'm either feeling God's divine presence and glory – or when I am deeply repenting for my awful sins – I find a connection with my Maker when I lie flat out, face down and cry out to him. See the scriptures I gave above.

**So you have such a place?** Some people enjoy praying on the same spot on the same bed. Others like a very special chair – that is their spot for communing with the Almighty.

- **I BELIEVE you'll find God speaking to YOU more here.** You will open up more to Him I believe when you're in your spot, your holy place with God.
  - I take a note pad with me when I pray. Sometimes I just stop and say, "Abba, do you have a word for me? Yeshua, I'm listening Lord, if you need me to hear something from you." Sometimes I can't write fast enough. Other times, I get nothing honestly. *But I feel prayer should not be just you non-stop talking to God, especially if it's nothing but a series of requests and "gimmes".*
- Especially in the Passover season (some of you kept it in March this year, some will keep it in April), when we pray is the time we remember **"This is my blood in the NEW covenant"** – and that ALL our past sins are forgiven and buried in His blood.



Revelation 1:5 – washed in his own blood. **And “This is my BODY broken for you”.**

We also remember we see one another as **WASHED by the Master**, as we wash one another's feet – and we forgive one another, and heal one another's hurts and wounds against us and we against them. This will happen more powerfully if you PROCLAIM all these in YOUR PRAYERS, especially THIS TIME of year.

- **This is the time to claim HEALING** – “by His stripes we are healed” – by HIS grace, HIS healing, by focusing on HIM. We remember “you will keep in perfect peace he whose mind is stayed on You.” (**Isaiah 26:3**). This is the time we remember that when Israel marched out of Egypt – there was not one person frail, sick or disabled among them! Not a single one. Have you thought of that? **Psalms 105 is such a great psalm to read right now.**

**Psalms 105:37**

“He also brought them out with silver and gold,  
**And there was none feeble among His tribes.”**

*But WHAT had just happened, hours before they marched out?* I believe a day before there were some feeble, sick and frail. But when they marched out, no one was sick.

What had just happened was that the nation of *Israel had come under the blood of the Lamb*, had splashed blood on the lintel and door post – picturing the crucifixion of our Lord and God, and they were all healed! No doubt that night as they heard the wails of the Egyptians, **they PRAYED**, while they were under the Blood of the Lamb. And YHVH healed them! God can renew our strength and vitality like that of an eagle. They focused on their GOD. “Do this in remembrance of ME” - remember. And YAHWEH healed them. That's what I think happened. Prayer is so powerful. Prayer helps us take time to reset our FOCUS – to be on him, and not on the problems.

Prayer resets our lives – every time we pray. When actually pray – versus just “saying our prayers”. And when you have special private place where you pray and pray fervently, great things happen.

**Private vs. Group Prayer**

The kind of prayer I'm discussing primarily today is your private time prayer – just you and God. But some take Yeshua's words to mean we can never pray with others. That's a wrong conclusion. Some of the most powerful prayers were when people got together to pray.

So **when Peter was arrested, (Acts 12:1-17)** the brethren all met at Mary's home and prayed together for his release in a powerful prayer meeting. Peter was miraculously saved. There is no record they did the same for James, who in fact was beheaded.

*But it's clear that when our Master said to pray in secret, privately, he wasn't saying we never should get together to pray as a group.* We should – especially in times of trouble. S

**2 Chronicles 20:3-6, 14-20** – Hezekiah gathered all Israel together and it was as they all prayed together, that the answer came. But the potential problem with relying solely on

group prayer is that it can become a thing of pride, the very thing Yeshua was denouncing: those who love praying – standing in the synagogue (church) or on the street corners or having other public venues.

So for the most part we pray privately, by ourselves, but in times of severe testing it's great to come together and pray as one body.

Even when anointing, I have no problem praying for people in a group – and there are examples of that in Scripture – but we also have examples of Peter putting people out and kneeling down and praying for Tabitha (Dorcas), a faithful disciple – and she arose from the dead. (**Acts 9:40-42**).

**Jairus' daughter** – only Yeshua, 3 disciples, the parents – were there. **Mark 5:40-42**

- Husbands/wives often have times of prayer together. I would still advise you to have your OWN private time most of the time, but maybe once or twice a week, it could be very good to pray together, taking turns on what is said – if that works for you.

**WHY we must pray daily!**

- **God is our Father. Every father or grandfather DELIGHTS in hearing from his son or daughter.** When we pray, it brings Almighty God tremendous joy. Give him that joy.
- **We're in a HUGE battle.** *Our battles are not the issues we see but the spiritual forces we don't see that are trying to take advantage of our trials and tests.* But most of us forget that from time to time. We should be fully dressed for battle with the armor of God. When we pray, we are talking to our Leader who will give us instructions and help to win our battles. Our faith is being tested. So we need to show that no matter what, we will remain faithful and trusting our Maker.
- **Our lamps must not go out** (the Menorah in the temple. In times of wickedness, the priests let the light go out). Remember all ten virgins in the parable of Matthew 25 fell asleep. Every single one of them -- and their lamps were going out! Five had run out of oil (the Holy Spirit was not flowing in them as before). So keep the fires of prayer and zeal burning brightly in your life.

**Our burning of the spiritual incense**, which pictures our prayers going to God – Must never cease. **See Psalm 141:2** about incense picturing prayer. YOU are the temple of the Holy Spirit. YOU! Don't make your beautiful temple just sit there not doing what it was designed to do: be a place of worship, a place of sacrifice and the House of Prayer to the One LIVING God!

*Yah PROMISES that when we humble ourselves and PRAY, and seek His face, and TURN from our wicked ways – he WILL hear from heaven, FORGIVE our sin and HEAL our land! 2 Chronicles 7:14.* Yah goes on to say in verses 15-16 of 2 Chron 7 that his eyes and his HEART will be there continually, perpetually with you if you make your life – the temple of Yah today – a house of prayer!

- It could mean deliverance in the greatest time of testing and trouble – or not.  
**Luke 21:36**  
“Watch therefore, and **pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape** all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
- When we pray, **it's a time to express repentance** – for God loves to hear and accept a repentant sinner. So don't worry that your sins will keep you from God. They won't – if you repent. Remember it was the repenting Publican who said, “God be merciful to me, a sinner” who went home justified instead of the self-righteous Pharisee who just told God how good he – the Pharisee – was. That story is in **Luke 18:10-14**.
- It's when we express **thanksgiving IN and FOR** all our troubles (**Philippians 4:6-8**). As we do this, it re-sets our mind and thinking the way it should be. It reminds us that God knows all things. IF he knows the number of hairs I have left on my head, he is certainly aware I need a job, or need money, or need healing, or need encouragement. If he's aware when a sparrow dies, he certainly knows my needs.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

“Rejoice always, 17 **pray without ceasing**, 18 **IN everything** give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- **It's also a time to petition our Maker for others.** God frankly will be more likely to answer YOUR prayers if you pray for others. “Pray for one another that YOU may be healed.” **James 5:16** – for just one example.
- **SO many great answers and interventions from God happened – guess when – when people were praying!** SO many examples. Here are a few:

**Acts 9:11**-- Ananias was told to go to Saul/Paul – while he was praying. (Audio)

**Acts 11:5** – Peter was praying when God showed him that Gentiles would be called.

**Hannah** – **which** means “grace” – was answered as he poured out her heart quietly but fervently at the tabernacle -- see the end of **1 Samuel 1**.

- **It's a time to thank and praise God for *having already heard you*** when you're asking for healing or answered prayer. Be sure to hear my sermon in 2014 on “Praising YHWH *before* He gives the answer”. We miss out on so many answers because we keep looking around, instead of UP. We keep begging for answers instead of praising him for having already answered, even before we see the answer.

The next time I speak on prayer, we'll get into some of the keys to having more effective prayer. Praying in the spirit. Praying with lifted hands. Praying prostrate – flat out, kneeling, standing. Praying with praise and thanksgiving even before we see the answers. But before that I also want to focus on some more specific Passover topics. I just wanted today to focus on having a set prayer time and **place**, a sanctuary, if you will – where you pray. And to encourage everyone to be on their knees daily if at all possible.

Closing prayer.