

Bible e-Study /Pennies From Heaven

“If you haven’t got a penny a ha’ penny will do”
Praying in All Circumstances - How realistic is that?

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Eph 6:18

NUGGET – It’s easy to say, “then God bless you” as the old Christmas-time rhyme goes:

**Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat
Please to put a penny in the old man's hat;
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do,
If you haven't got a ha'penny then God bless you!**

But in our nugget verse today, we’re reminded to pray at ***all*** times, not just holidays like Christmas. We’re to speak “**then God bless you!**” in prayer for ourselves and others ***always***. So the question is, how do we do that? How do we *realistically* stay alert and always keep on praying?

I think one of the things that can help us with this is what is said in the first part of the verse. It says to, “***pray in the Spirit on***

- ✧ ***all occasions with***
- ✧ ***all kinds of prayers and requests.***”

Occasions, *all occasions*, give us an excuse to pray. There is no occasion in our life we can’t bring to God in prayer. And all that we bring to God in prayer helps us to frame everything we do as being done before the eyes of God... at all times. By saying a prayer at the beginning of a family drive or walking from the car into work or school or saying a prayer as you head outside to do yard work can help to set your mind on the fact the Lord God is watching over you to guide and guard your way.

Secondly it says to pray with “***all kinds of prayers and requests***”. There is nothing we do that can’t be turned into prayer in some way. Jesus was a carpenter and He worked with His hands daily. Do you imagine that Jesus could not pray and work the wood at the same time? True, you and I aren’t Jesus, but the verse today says that we pray ***in*** the Spirit... with all kinds of prayers and requests. We’re to let the Spirit guide our hearts and minds and tongue to pray in varieties of ways.

The point is, to be aware of letting the Spirit, in His wonderful creative variety, do that guiding in our lives. Our lives can become lives lived as prayer. Our lives, lived as prayer, can happen as we grow in being alert to the fact that we are living always before the ever-watchful Eyes of our Heavenly Father. Remembering to pray always brings us to a greater alertness to living all of life in the *in* the presence of the living God. The idea of praying at all times becomes, not work but second nature, as we seek the growth of the nature of our new life in Christ, given to us in our baptism and by faith.

APPLICATION –

1. What are you doing the rest of today? Pick two ‘occasions’ from your upcoming activities and say a prayer for God’s guidance before starting them.
2. Take a look at your hands and think about where they’ve been and what they’ve accomplished today. Those are things that God has given you His strength and Spirit to accomplish. Look at your hands again and let them be your cue to pray through the next task you put them to.

PRAY – Give thanks to God for the moment-by-moment presence of the Holy Spirit.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom Rhodes



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH **'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'**

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*Going Deeper together. We meet in the **Fellowship Hall** during the Education Hour for discussion and prayer with all those who're able to come. If you're not able to make it Sunday, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments or questions so that we can have the benefit of sharing them together.*

GOING DEEPER

"If you haven't got a penny a ha' penny will do"
Praying in All Circumstances - How realistic is that?

Since this topic is another practical one, like last week, let's ask some questions of scripture as to how – how to pray in all circumstances. Take a look 2 or 3 of the following passages and keep in mind these 4 questions.

1. What 2 or 3 'bullet points' about prayer can be learned from this passage?
2. What impact would such teaching have in the daily lives and context of the people who *first* read this?
3. If what this passage teaches could be put into an 'action item' statement, what might that read like?
4. How might this action item play out in a person's life so as to result in realistically "praying in all circumstances"?

Ok, here's the list to choose from. Make some notes based on the questions and share those with me by e-mail or on Sunday morning.

[Luke 18:1-8](#)

[Luke 22:39-46](#)

[Acts 12:1-12](#)

[Romans 1:8-10](#)

[Ephesians 1:15-16](#)

[1 Corinthians 14:13-17](#)

[1 Thessalonians 3:6-10](#)

[1 Peter 4:7](#)

In the peace of Christ, PR

Ps. Here's some one-liners about prayer that have come across my e-mail

Don't put a question mark, where God put a period.

Prayer: Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

If the church wants a better preacher, it only needs to pray for the one it has. (Please!)