



Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation

“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN September 18, 2022

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

¹⁷ pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Have you ever been told, “If you pray for something more than once, you lack faith and trust in God.”? I am sure that many of us were given that advice. Therefore, we were encouraged to “Take our burdens to the Lord and leave them there.”

The question today, “Is praying for something more than once a lack of faith and trust in God?” I answer, “No,” especially in the context of praying without ceasing or persistence in prayer. In 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, we find the story of Paul’s Thorn in the Flesh. Note that Paul was a committed and dedicated man of God. Note also that Paul is one of the top 5 most significant characters in the New Testament. Note even more that Paul wrote almost half of the book in the New Testament. Therefore, if there is anyone in the New Testament who knew Jesus and had a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus, it was Paul.

However, in 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Paul prays for the removal of the thorn in his flesh more than once. Following is the outline of the passage:

- A. Paul had a spiritual encounter where he was taken to the 3rd heaven
- B. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble
- C. Paul pleaded with the Lord three times for it to be removed
- D. Jesus’ response, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness”
- E. Paul’s response, “... for when I am weak, then I am strong”

Two things to consider from Paul’s experience:

1. Paul prayed for the removal of the thorn three times. Are we, therefore, to conclude that Paul lacked faith and trust in God? Absolutely not. Perhaps Paul wanted God to know how serious he was regarding his request. Perhaps Paul wanted to have full confirmation of God’s will (“God, it appears that you are saying ‘No.’ I am conforming that is what you are saying.” Being persistent in prayer by praying for something more than once does not specifically mean that you lack faith and trust in God.
2. Although Paul was persistent in prayer because he prayed for the thorn more than once, Paul did not get the answer that he desired. Persistence in prayer is not a guarantee that you will get the things for which you are praying. Jesus answered Paul with the response that was best for Paul.

Yes, it is appropriate to remain persistent in pray by praying for the same thing more than once. Our faith and trust in God is not determined by how many times we pray. Rather, it is by how we resolve that God’s will is always best.

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis *Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future*

Through faith God has given us the space to be an **oasis** in the middle of the city.

An **oasis** is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the **Oasis** today!
Let's continue to make progress!

Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.



Beginning



Current

Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 basketballs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 art sets for aspiring artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 tennis rackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 computer for graphic design and website creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sets of golf clubs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

SEPTEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

When I pour into someone else, I make room for God to pour more into me _____

Into whom am I pouring? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

Is there someone younger than me that I can help and assist? _____
