THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER: PERSISTENT IN PRAYER

Pastor Derek Sanford

February 21, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. As you think about last week’s sermon, what one thing do you particularly remember?
2. Derek ‘s Big Idea was: Persistent prayer gets God’s attention. What has been your honest personal experience with prayer?
3. **Read** **I Thessalonians 5:17**; **Romans 1:9-10; Ephesians 1:16**; **Philippians 1:3-4** What would it look like for us to pray continually? How could that work in our busy lives today?
4. Stop now as a group to **(A) Adore** (praise) God in prayer. Instead of just sitting, try using a different posture (ideas in back of prayer guide) and for 60 seconds take turns mentioning God’s characteristics.
5. Derek said the three key ingredients to persistent prayer are devotion (continuing steadfastly), watchfulness (spiritual alertness,) and thankfulness. Which of these is the hardest for you, and why?
6. Stop now to **(C) Confess** to God. For one minute, talk to God silently and tell him your struggles with coming to Him consistently and earnestly in prayer.
7. **Read Philippians 4:6**. How can you practice being thankful even when it seems as if God isn’t answering your prayers? After discussing this, take one minute to **(T) Thank** God together. Remember to thank God even when you have not seen His answers yet.
8. Derek said, “Our greatest need is not the answer to our prayers; our greatest need is God Himself.” How does prayer help us to know God?
9. On the other hand, our prayers change things. **Read Revelation 8:1-4.** Wow! Our prayers matter. Think of the ONE BIG PRAYER you are asking of God. Stop and take one minute for **(S) Supplication** (stuff you need) – pray for that one need you will concentrate on in the coming weeks. As you pray, think of how your parent showed love to you or how you show love as a parent and picture God loving you that way (arm around you, stroking your hair, head in lap, giving a ‘high five’.) You have a good Father who wants to hear you.
10. Application: Right now decide on a place and time to commit to pray daily. Share with your group so you can hold each other accountable.
11. Challenge: Theologian Walter Wink said, “Human history belongs to the intercessors, to those who believe and pray the future into being.” Resolve to change your world through prayer.

**Memory Verse:** “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” **Colossians 4:2**