

Sermon Handout – Pray Without Ceasing (Rev. Jim Raistrick 4th Oct, 2020)**Prayer from the 4th Century, Augustine of Hippo:**

Holy Spirit, powerful Consoler, Sacred Bond of the Father and the Son, Hope of the afflicted, Descend into our hearts and establish in it Your loving dominion. Enkindle in our tepid soul the fire of Your Love so that we may be wholly subject to You. We believe that when You dwell in us, You also prepare a dwelling for the Father and the Son. Deign, therefore, to come to us, Consoler of abandoned souls, and Protector of the needy. Help the afflicted, strengthen the weak, and support the wavering. Come and purify us. Let no evil desire take possession of us. You love the humble and resist the proud. Come to us, glory of the living, and hope of the dying. Lead us by Your grace that we may always be pleasing to You. Amen.

- What is it to 'pray without ceasing' [1 Thess. 5:17]?
- The sacred name of God: YHWH 'I am' [Ex. 3:14]
- Distinctiveness of breathing.
- Distinctiveness of being made in His image.
- Distinctiveness of being His (a Christian).
- What is it, then, to pray?

Prayer from the 4th Century, Augustine of Hippo:

Our God, let us know and love You, so that we may find our happiness in You. Since we cannot fully achieve this on earth, help us to improve daily until we may do so to the full. Enable us to know You ever more on earth, so that we may know You perfectly in heaven. Enable us to love You ever more on earth, so that we may love You perfectly in heaven. In that way our joy may be great on earth, and perfect with You in heaven. O God of truth, grant us the happiness of heaven so that our joy may be full in accord with Your promise. In the meantime let our minds dwell on that happiness, our tongues speak of it, our hearts pine for it, our mouths pronounce it, our souls hunger for it, our flesh thirst for it, and our entire being desire it until we enter through death in the joy of our Lord forever. Amen.

Bible References: Ex. 3:9-15, Gen. 1:26, 1 Pet. 2:9-10, Rev. 1:4-8.