

		sermon notes
	<p>March 28 + 29, 2015 Pastor Monica Reynolds Pray Always</p> <p><small>LISTEN, GET NOTES + SHARE AT CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/MEDIA</small></p>	

“Prayer is where the action is.”
 - John Wesley

Prayerful conversation with God often turns into prayerful conversion. God uses our prayers to convert our thoughts and desires to His, to renew our mind and spirit and align it with His will.

I Thessalonians 5:9-18 (NLT)

*For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. ¹⁰ Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. ¹¹ So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. ¹² Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. ¹³ Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. ¹⁴ Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. ¹⁶ **Always be joyful.** ¹⁷ **Never stop praying.** ¹⁸ **Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.***

- To pray without ceasing is to be in constant _____ throughout your entire day.
 - Coffee talk with God
 - God wants to meet you right where you are. Right here. Right now. Not yesterday, not tomorrow.

- Praying without ceasing will help you develop _____.
 - Kingdom eyes see everything differently
 - Kingdom eyes move you to compassion
 - Kingdom eyes invite you to see what Christ sees
 - Kingdom eyes call you into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God

Palm Sunday

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Matthew 21:9 (NRSV)

- Hosanna means _____

Please, Lord, please save us. Please, Lord, please give us success. ²⁶ Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. Psalm 118:25-26 (NLT)

If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now, they are hidden from your eyes. Luke 19:42 (NRSV)

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations. Mark 11:17 (NRSV)

1. **Lord, make us a church devoted to prayer.** Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2 (NIV)
2. **Lord, make us a church that prays for all its members and all occasions.** Pray in Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests. With this in mind (spiritual battles) be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)
3. **Lord, make us a church that asks, seeks, and knocks.** Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)
4. **Lord, make us a church that does great things for God by prayer.** Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. John 14:12-14 (NRSV)
5. **Lord, make us a church that transforms its community by prayer.** Work for the good of the city where I've taken you as captives, and pray to the Lord for that city. When it prospers, you will also prosper. Jeremiah 29:7 (GW)
6. **Lord, make us a church that prays faithfully for its leaders.** Brothers and sisters, I encourage you through our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love that the Spirit creates, to join me in my struggle. Pray to God for me. Romans 15:30 (GW)
7. **Lord, make us a church that prays for those who do not know you.** I urge you, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1,3,4 (NIV)

Sources: Scripture Prayer Guide, by Alvin VanderGriend; Two Processions, by Marcus Borg