Mentored in Ceaseless Prayer

Focus: Growing more and more to embrace the command and promise of 1 Thess. 5.17 (ceaseless prayer)

Discussion:

- Have your group read these verses aloud: I Thess.. 5.16-18; Rom. 1.9-10 Rom. 12.12; I Cor. 1.4; Eph. 1.16; Eph. 6.18; Col. 1.9; Col. 4.2; Col. 4.12; I Thess. 1.2; I Thess. 2.13; I Thess. 3.10; 2 Thess. 1.11; 2 Tim. 1.3
- What do you think is the heart of the matter of obeying Paul's command in I Thess. 5.17? What questions do all these verses raise about that?
- What are the things that make your living out a life marked by ceaseless prayer hard? What helps you do that?
- What does the command to pray ceaselessly reveal to you about God? How does that encourage you to pray?
- What difference would growing in this practice of prayer make in your life? Can you think of a specific area of life that would be deeply affected if you prayed more while you were involved in that?
- How does being steadfast in prayer (Col. 4.2) enable you to pray without ceasing? What can cause us to give up on prayer?
- What helps you pray more during the course of your day? Make a list or prompts/ways that help. What of the ways to pray more throughout the day that were shared in group (or in the sermon) seemed most helpful to you?
- Ask people what might be a good first/next step for them to take in practicing ceaseless prayer throughout their day.



RESOURCES:

Here are some helpful links for resources about ceaseless prayer:

This is a very helpful 7 part study on this topic:

http://www.colsoncenter.org/ images/content/wilberforce/ <u>ViewPoint_Studies/VP-Pray-</u> without-Ceasing.pdf

Watch for the posting of ch. 7 of "A Praying Life" by Paul Miller on our leader blog here:

http://northwake.com/north-wakeleader-blog/prayer-resources/

and here is a wise sermon by Spurgeon on our topic:

<u>http://www.ccel.org/ccel/</u> spurgeon/sermons18.xii.html