

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for August 18, 2013**

<b>Announcements for the Week</b>	Andy Fuller
<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>
<b>Prayer-</b> Philip Dorn	<b>Prayer-</b> Darryl Griffing
<b>Song Leader-</b> Jason LaChappelle	<b>Song Leader-</b> Marshall Irvin
<b>Communion:</b>	
-- <b>Comments</b> – Doug Davidson	<b>Comments</b> – Michael Shepherd
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Mark Jones	<b>Serving</b> – Philip Dorn
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Matt Fuller	
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Curran Lachappelle	
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Todd Hudson	
<b>Scripture</b> – Justin Carr	<b>Scripture</b> – Connor LaChappelle
<b>Closing Prayer-</b> Jay Dobbs	<b>Closing Prayer-</b> John Paul Baker
<b>Wednesday Night – August 21, 2013</b>	
<b>First Prayer</b> – Marshall Irvin	
<b>Song Leader</b> – Russ Solars	
<b>Invitation</b> – Matt Fuller	
<b>Closing Prayer</b> – Darryl Griffing	
<b>August 25 Sunday Evening Preaching</b> – Dan Buselmeier	

**Upcoming Assignments**

August	Communion	Cleaning
24	Jones	Mcllvain, Ferrell, Criswell, Tucker
Sept 1	Bailey	Johnson, Baker, Goddard, Land

**The Steps That Lead to Eternal Salvation:**

- **Hear the gospel**, for that is how faith comes (Rom. 10:17; John 20:30,31)
- **Believe in the deity of Christ** (John 8:24; John 3:18)
- **Repent of your sins** (Luke 13:5; Acts 17:30)
- **Confess faith in Christ** (Rom. 10:9,10; Acts 8:36-38)
- **Be baptized in water** for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3,4; Gal. 3:26,27; 1 Pet. 3:21)
- **Continue in the faith**; for, if not, salvation can be lost (Heb. 10:36-39; Rev. 2:10; 2 Pet. 2:20-22).

*Schedule of Services*

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.**

This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Andy Dobbs.

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# Covington Church of Christ

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Deacons: John Paul Baker, Doug Davidson, Andy Fuller,

Marshall Irvin, Jason LaChappelle

August 18, 2013

*Pray Without Ceasing*

By Joe R. Price

I received the following Bible question recently:

"How can we pray without ceasing and apply Matt 6:7, ***'But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.'***

How can I stop myself from not repeating the same thing if I want to pray without ceasing? Eventually I am going to run out of words and will have to repeat myself. Help!"

The instruction to "pray without ceasing" does not conflict with the Lord's teaching to avoid vain repetitions in prayer, because acceptable prayer is not based on the number of words we use or the length of our prayer. Praying without ceasing complements Jesus' teaching **"that men ought always to pray and not lose heart"** (Lk. 18:1). Christians are prayerful people and must not become discouraged or give up on prayer.



## [Pray Without Ceasing](#)

Continued

We must not view prayer as an occasion to display ourselves before others. Hence, the Lord's warning not to use "vain repetitions" ("to repeat the same things over and over, to use many and idle words, to babble," Thayer, 99).

Jesus is not saying that we can never "repeat the same thing" when we pray. However, He is teaching us to be careful that our heart is fully engaged and involved in the words we speak to Almighty God in prayer. God does not listen for the amount of words we pray, but for the heart that is speaking the words. We cannot turn prayer into a mindless exercise of spilling out liturgical phrases and thoughtless expressions and expect God to accept our prayers.

**How can we be more effective in our prayers, wanting to both "pray without ceasing" and not use "vain repetitions"?**

[Seek solitude](#). In contrast to the self-righteous motive of wanting to be seen by men when we pray, Jesus said to "go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (Matt. 6:6). The objective of prayer is communication with God, not with men. Make time to be alone with God in prayer, away from the distractions of life. This does not mean we cannot pray any time of the day. It means that whenever we pray, our attention must be given to God and not to the reactions of those around us. Solitude helps us focus on what we want to say to God. For example, Jesus found a solitary place to pray (Mk. 1:35). So should we.

[Be specific](#). There is a lot to be said for the song we sing: "count your many blessings, name them one by one...and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." Please note that just after saying we are to "pray without ceasing," the apostle wrote, "in everything giving thanks" (1 Thes. 5:17-18). Keep a

list of people you know, of brethren and the specific things they are going through, of the spiritual blessings you have in Christ, of the opportunities in your life, and so forth. Thank God specifically for the blessings you have. Supplicate the Master's help for specific trials or problems (yours and other's). When you are specific in prayer you will be surprised what the Lord has done! And, you won't be vainly repeating yourself just to "have something to say."

[Be spontaneous](#). Nehemiah gives us a good example of spontaneity in prayer (Neh. 2:4). Situations where prayer is helpful present themselves to us every day. But, unless we have a mindset to be a prayerful person, we can begin to view prayer as drudgery rather than a blessing. When we have a prayerful attitude our habit will be to pray throughout the day, not just at "set times." This helps us overcome "vain repetition" while becoming more earnest and vigilant in our prayers (Col. 4:2).

Prayer is an expression of our faith in God (Lk. 18:8). In other words, don't wait to pray!



## [Deep Roots](#)

By Shane Williams

In the Bible, godly people are often likened to trees with strong deep roots (Psa. 1:3; Prov. 12:3; Jer. 17:7,8). The branches of growing trees not only reach higher, but their roots grow deeper. It's impossible for a strong tree to have high branches without having deep roots.

The same is true with Christians. It's not possible for us to grow in the Lord without interweaving our roots around His Word and deepening our life in His will.

Would you like to be a tall, immovable tree? That comes only through a life of Bible study, discipline, and faith -- conditions that produce deep roots.

