

# **S.O.H.L.**

## **WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS**

*Pronounced "Soul"*

**July 25, 2016**

### **Who's Really Praying?**

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:17 NKJV** – (17) Pray without ceasing.

False prayer is a prayer uttered by a saved person without being prompted to pray; or, it can be a perceived prayer uttered by an unsaved person, whose prayers are not listened to by God anyway.

You will notice that the call to 'pray without ceasing' (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**) is hedged with instructions that help define the quality of that prayer...rejoicing evermore (**16**), giving perpetual thanks (**17**), always doing what is good (**15**), not quenching the Spirit (**19**), accepting prophecy either foretelling or expounding the word: (**20**), testing the spirits and maintaining a pure life (**21**), not doing anything that is sinful, and shunning even those things that appear to be evil (**22**), coupled with a proper attitude toward those who act wrongly (**14**).

Paul is not referring to nonstop talking, but rather an attitude of God-consciousness and God-surrender that we carry with us all the time. Every waking moment is to be lived in an awareness that God is with us and that He is actively involved and engaged in our thoughts and actions. For Christians, prayer should be like breathing. You do not have to think to breathe because the atmosphere exerts pressure on your lungs and essentially forces you to breathe. That is why it is more difficult to hold your breath than it is to breathe. Similarly, when we are born into the family of God, we enter into a spiritual atmosphere where God's presence and grace exerts pressure, or influence, on our lives. Prayer is the normal response to that pressure. As believers, we have all entered the divine atmosphere to breathe the air of prayer.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

JOHN 15:18

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

If we are not attacking Satan, then he must be attacking us!