



[Luke 21:36](#)

(36) Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

New King James Version

The "praying always" that Jesus commands in [Luke 21:36](#) affects every part of our Christian lives. It is the tool that [God](#) gives us to be in constant contact with Him so that we can truly bring every thought into captivity, under the control of God ([II Corinthians 10:5](#)). We are encouraged to make bold use of this tool for our every need ([Hebrews 4:16](#)). We need to explore some of the important implications that striving to pray always—praying at all times—has on this life to which God has called us.

In [Luke 21:36](#), Christ also commands us to "watch." The underlying Greek word stresses the need to be alert or on guard. This fits with a major requirement of Christian life, that we examine ourselves. We are to be alert to those things about ourselves that will disqualify us from entering God's Kingdom so that we can change them.

Self-examination is such an important spiritual activity that God includes it as a major part of one of His seven festivals, the Feast of Unleavened Bread. [II Corinthians 13:5](#) exhorts, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the [faith](#). Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that [Jesus Christ](#) is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified." Our ongoing efforts to submit to God's laws and standards are evidence that Christ and His faith are in us ([James 2:18](#)).

God always gives us choices ([Deuteronomy 30:19](#)). Consider the example of Jonah. He could have done exactly what God asked of him, but instead, he rebelled, having to suffer an intense trial to bring him to obedience to God's will. Notice, however, that God's purpose never changed. The only variable was how much pain and suffering Jonah chose to experience before he submitted to God's purpose. Initially, he chose rebellion and trials over submission to God.

— Pat Higgins

To learn more, see:

[Praying Always \(Part Five\)](#)

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