Why People Cease to Pray?
1 Thess. 5:17

Introduction:
A. A preacher who ceased to give thanks at table.
B. All great Bible characters prayed.
C. Modern man degrades prayer:
   1. Reduced to child’s play - superstition.
   2. Reduced to formality - “say prayers.”
   3. Reduced to “last ditch” effort.
   4. Reduced to “mere obedience” – feel no need except God said to.
D. Children often pray and cease as adults.
E. Three chief reasons people cease to pray.

Discussion:
I. A Loss of Gratitude. (Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:15).
A. A dangerous attitude (Rom. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:2)
B. We need be thankful and give thanks for:
   1. Material blessings (cf. 1 Tim. 4:4,5; 1 Tim. 6:17)
   2. Spiritual blessings (cf. Eph. 1:3)
   3. Relationships (cf. 1 Thess. 1:2, 3; 2 Thess. 1:3)

A. For our temporal well-being (Matt. 6:11)
B. For our spiritual well-being (Matt. 6:13).
C. For the success of our labors (1 Cor. 3:7; cf. 2 Thess. 3:1; Rom. 10:1-4).

III. A Loss of Faith (cf. 1 Tim. 2:8).
A. Three levels of doubt.
   1. That God can.
   2. That God does.
   3. That God will.
B. Most common doubt – think prayers changes nothing (cf. Jas. 4:2)
   1. Think miracle only way can answer – miracles ceased.
   2. But, God answers through providence.
      a. Elijah’s prayer (Jas. 5:17-18; cf. 1 Kings 18:41-46).
      b. Hezekiah’s prayer (2 Kings 20:2-3)
      c. Manasseh’s prayer (2 Chron. 33:10-13)
      d. Jabez’s prayer (1 Chron. 4:10).
      e. God’s work through nations (cf. Isa. 10:5-7).

Conclusion:
A. Must pray without ceasing.
B. Must pray according to His will.
C. Must pray without doubting.