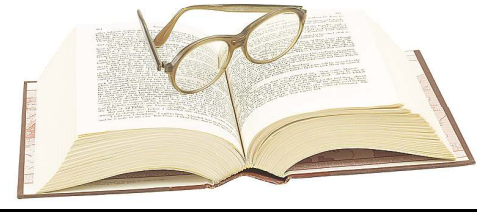


## MESSAGES FROM WAYNE'S STUDY



## THE ULTIMATE IN CELL PHONES

#0020

Telephone technology has sure changed over the last sixty years or so. I remember, when I was a small boy growing up in Berkeley (it was a nice town then), my father calling long distance to my aunt and uncle in Sacramento. We had to be quiet; he had to speak loudly and clearly to be heard at the other end and he had to make the call as short as possible because of the cost (my family didn't have a lot of money).

Today, most of us go around with cell phones in our purses (mostly the women) or attached to our belts (the men) and can call nearly anyone from them. The technology has changed greatly, the economics have not changed as much. We still need to watch our cell phone expenses. Another more recent technological change is in the internet. When I first got involved, I used our telephone line at 2,400 bits per second. It was slow, but it worked most of the time. Today, we are like a majority of people who have "direct access" to the internet at a lot higher speeds (3,000,000 bits per second) and we are always connected, as long as the computer is on. It costs a fair amount of money to get this kind of access.

Now, as to the ultimate. There is one communication service we can sign up for that allows us unlimited calls, "24/7" and it is completely free! Most of the people who have signed up for this service do not take advantage of the fact that it is like having direct internet access, you can stay connected continually. They are still in the mode where they make short occasional calls using this service and hang up promptly. Why? I don't think they understand the power behind this service.

In case you have not guessed it by now, the communication service I am referring to is called PRAYER. All you have to do to sign up for this service is to make your first call, accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. That's all there is to signing up! Unfortunately, many Christians only use the service when they are in trouble or need something. Some do more, they call up to give thanks for something. But even they are not using the service as it was intended, **.pray without ceasing**, (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NKJV)

The "Preacher's Preacher," C. H. Spurgeon once preached, *Since we are to pray without ceasing, and yet could not pray with the voice without ceasing, it is clear that audible language is not essential to prayer. We may speak a thousand words which seem to be prayer, and yet never pray; on the other hand, we may cry into God's ear most effectually, and yet never say a word. In the book of Exodus God is represented as saying to Moses, "Why criest thou unto me?" And yet it is not recorded that Moses had uttered so much as a single syllable at that time. It is true that the use of the voice often helps prayer. I find, personally, that I can pray best when alone if I can hear my own voice; at the same time it is not essential, it does not enter at all into the acceptability, reality, or prevalence of prayer. Silence is as fit a garment for devotion as any that language can fashion.*<sup>1</sup>

This communication service has a feature not available on standard cell phones, "Interpreters!" **Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** Romans 8:26 (NKJV) The new translation, "The Message" has an interesting translation; **Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans.** Romans 8:26 (MSG). May I encourage you today to make full use of this great service. Be in an attitude where God can speak to you at any time

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<sup>1</sup>Spurgeon, *Pray Without Ceasing*, Sermon #1039, March 10, 1872