

THE BULWARK

ALWAYS OPEN FOR COMMUNICATION

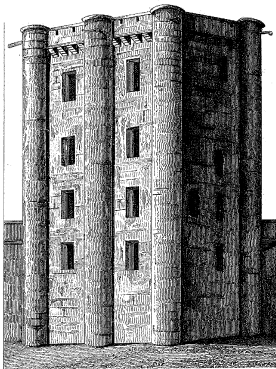
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following”*
Psalms 48:13

The ever present cell phone. Some have been known to quip that they finally realized it; people are prisoners of their phones, that’s why they are called cell phones. There exists in the minds of many, a “love-hate” relationship with the ubiquitous cell phone. On one hand they are intrusive, as people have an ever increasingly difficult time for even setting them down to interact with others, and why wouldn’t they, considering all that can be done with a cell phone. Access to the worldwide web, with a cornucopia of information at your fingertips; a state of the art camera, capable of capturing both “still” and video images. Then there is the flip side, that affords nearly unlimited access to one another. Let’s face it, cell phones are so much more than “just” a phone and they are here to stay.



In the palm of your hand, you carry a veritable communication center. At the drop of a hat you can reach out and get in touch with anyone, anywhere on the face of the earth. All of which triggers another thought, that being of open communication, though albeit of a spiritual nature. God has done everything to encourage our reaching out to Him. The apostle Paul succinctly noted in 1Thessalonians 5:17, “*pray without ceasing*”. The 18th chapter of Luke opens with, “*Now He was telling them a parable to show that all times they ought to pray and not lose heart.*” One must accept the open communication afforded to mankind by our heavenly Father, “*rejoicing in hope, per-*

severing in tribulation, devoted to prayer.” (Romans 12:12)

Prayer is defined as being a petition in word or thought addressed to God. Such a definition seems to be cold, failing to articulate the emotional/spiritual connection, and the necessity to include the expression of thanksgiving and so much more. Matthew records Jesus teaching on the mount, and part of that sermon is dedicated as outlining how to pray (see Matthew 5:9-13). One might even use the acronym ACTS with respect to prayer as seen therein. A is for adoration. C stands for confession. T is for thanksgiving. Finally S is for supplication. One might even suggest therein is seen the purpose in prayer.

Would that we all might grow to be as locked in on prayer as it seems we are to the use of our cell phones. Paul, as he brings his letter to the Ephesians to a conclusion points out, “*with all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.*” (Ephesians 6:18) Throughout the day we should be sharing with Him our joys, gratitude, questions, needs as well as overall concerns. He willingly opened the line of communication and longs for us to take advantage thereof.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2) (wbe)