

In This Time of Distancing—God is Very Near

God knows all that you and I are going through, and He cares deeply. He even understands things that there really are no words for. He interprets our sighs and the groaning of our hearts. He listens and He loves. I want to share two Bible verses with you today that are from the very heart of God. These two verses are very short, and yet, very powerful. Both verses together contain only five words. The first verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:17 “*Pray without ceasing.*” We are invited to pray—to speak to God directly. To

come into His presence and pour our hearts out. Nothing is too big for God, or too small. It is never too often to come. As He invites us to pray “*without ceasing*” He will then listen without ceasing. Prayer is not just something that we do from time to time for specific reasons. Prayer is a way of life in fellowship with, and closeness to God. Our God who numbers the hairs on our heads and bottles our tears, is always very interested and ready to hear our prayers to Him. As we pray we find indeed, that God is



very near, and that time in prayer is very sweet. I can't help but think of that great hymn: “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus.”

The second verse I would like to share with you is even shorter—just two words! “*Rejoice evermore!*” (1 Thessalonians 5:16). As we realize that God is totally there for us, and wants to hear the depths of our hearts in prayer, we can find the joy to be deep and lasting! We can have a joy that is not rooted to our circumstances, but rather found in the Savior! I can't help but think of another great hymn: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” God is very close and He is ready, day or night or both, for us to come to Him in faith through prayer. He is waiting—will we come? I continue to pray for all of you. It is a real privilege for me to do so. I know He hears, and I trust Him to do the right thing in the right way at the right time.

Love in Christ,
Chaplain Todd