

## *Are You Praying & Interceding?*

Jesus said in Luke 18:1, . . .men ought always to pray, and not to faint; and in Matthew 9:37 & 38, He said, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

We, as believers, must pray every day because we need time to fellowship with the Father God. Praying every day also helps build us up spiritually. Almost everyone in the body of Christ has sensed the need in their heart to pray more. While some believers have started a life of prayer, setting aside time to seek God and intercede for others, other believers have drifted away.

It takes a lot of work, diligence, and effort *on our part* to ***maintain*** our prayer life. I think what helps us do this is when we, individually, get to the place that we begin to experience the results which are derived from, and accomplished *in and through* prayer. It also happens as we reap the benefits that come through fellowshiping with our Father God, and when we see we can't make it without Him.

### **Romans 12:1,2:**

<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

### **Matthew 26:36-46:**

<sup>36</sup>Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. <sup>37</sup>And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful

and very heavy. <sup>38</sup>Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

<sup>39</sup>And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. <sup>40</sup>And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup>Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

<sup>42</sup>He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. <sup>43</sup>And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

<sup>45</sup>Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

Prayer helps us receive direction from God, and find out what the perfect will of God is for our lives. When we don't pray as we should, we become less interested in God, the work that He has for us to do, and the plan that He has for our lives.

A lack of prayer causes one's Christian life to deteriorate and produces carnality, which causes individuals to become more interested in the things of the world than in the things of God. It then becomes more difficult to control the flesh and its appetites, and it becomes harder to take authority over the devil and his attacks (Matthew 17:14-22). One becomes more self-conscious, self-centered, and self-interested. A lack of prayer causes a person to draw back from the plan that God has for their life.

A Christian who's lost their prayer life has lost what made them stand out in the body of Christ. It's like drinking a soda that has lost its fizz – it's soda, but it's not the same. A believer's life is never the same once they fail to maintain their prayer life. They lose that edge and hunger for God, as well as the fire of the Holy Ghost they once had.

We don't do well when we haven't been praying. We may not realize it, but we're slowly yielding to the plan of the devil, who sets up traps for believers to fall into, described in 2 Timothy 2: 26, . . . that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

The best prayer plan that one can make is to have a habit of praying every morning and seeing to it that the day does not go by that you haven't put one hour in prayer. You're not going to feel like praying, so it's easy to postpone praying. But when you don't feel like praying is the time to remind yourself that it may be more important to pray then. Because when Satan is doing all he can to distract us from prayer, there's a reason. *He is the deceiver*.

Prayer exposes the devil. Prayer helps us see what God needs us to see. It helps us hear what God wants us to hear, know what God wants us to know, and do what God wants us to do, so we can accomplish what God wants us to accomplish.

When we pray, we need to pray long enough to get over into the spirit so we can receive direction from God. Every day, put time in prayer until you begin to know in your spirit that you've made the connection.

We also need to pray and intercede for others. Paul said in Ephesians 6:19, And [pray] for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

**1 Timothy 2:1-4:** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; <sup>2</sup>For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. <sup>3</sup>For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; <sup>4</sup>Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

**Colossians 4:2,3,12:** <sup>2</sup>Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup>Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: <sup>4</sup>That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. <sup>12</sup>Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand

perfect and complete in all the will of God.

When we don't pray and intercede for others, the devil is able to accomplish his will (Ephesians 6:10-19). A lack of prayer in the church (the body of Christ) hinders God from carrying out His plan and having His will done on the earth. Many tragedies and disasters happen to individual believers, to the whole body of Christ, and even in the world, due to a lack of prayer. One of our jobs as believers is to be intercessors, where we intercede and travail, so God can work out His plan on the earth (Gal. 4:19, Romans 8:26-28).

What people fail to realize is that God is not running this earth. He owns the earth, but He gave us the responsibility, authority, and dominion over the devil, who is known as the *"prince of the power of the air"* (Ephesians 2:2).

### **Matthew 18:18:**

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

### **Matthew 9:35-10:1:**

<sup>35</sup>And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. <sup>36</sup>But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

<sup>37</sup>Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup>Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. <sup>1</sup>And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Satan has been defeated by Jesus. If we don't enforce that defeat in the Name of Jesus, Satan can operate as though he's never been defeated, and that's how he gets away with murder, and stealing, and destroying, as we read in John 10:10: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

### **Matthew 11:12:**

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

### **Matthew 12: 43-45:**

<sup>43</sup> When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. <sup>44</sup>Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. <sup>45</sup>Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

### **Matthew 12:22- 29:**

<sup>22</sup>Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. <sup>23</sup>And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? <sup>24</sup>But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. <sup>25</sup>And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them,

Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: <sup>26</sup>And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup>And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. <sup>28</sup>But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. <sup>29</sup>Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

### **2 Corinthians 4:3, 4:**

<sup>3</sup>But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are

lost: <sup>4</sup>In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

### **1 John 4:4:**

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Too many dear Christians are not using their authority, and far too few are even aware they have any authority in this world. Because of erroneous teachings, they've been blinded and led to believe that whatever happens on earth, or in their lives, or in anyone else's life, is the will of God. They've been taught the religious lie that God is in control. They believe everything Satan wants people to believe so God gets all the blame for the disasters and heartaches.

Whether our nation sinks and swims is going to be up to us, as the church (*the body of Christ*), and not the politicians. When we pray and intercede as we should, according to the scriptures, things go well, as we've already read in 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

If God were in control of everything, every Christian would walk in love, obey God, and never sin. God runs heaven, and when Lucifer rose up and rebelled, God took authority over him and kicked him out. This is the same thing Adam and Eve should have done in the garden, **and it is the same thing we should do in our nation.**

But when you've got so few believers among the body of Christ exercising any spiritual authority to any degree at all, and when you've got most of the church believing some kind of ungodly fantasy like: "*whatever will be, will be*", we fall into the category of what it was like to be Joshua and Caleb, when they were with the people known back then as *the church in the wilderness*.

The majority of the church then failed to believe that God would protect them from the enemy. Only two individuals out of a few million people believed God for divine protection.

As the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, <sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup>And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup>And did all eat the same spiritual meat; <sup>4</sup>And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of

that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

<sup>7</sup>Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. <sup>8</sup>Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. <sup>9</sup>Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. <sup>10</sup>Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

<sup>11</sup>Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. <sup>12</sup>Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

### **Hebrews 3:8-19:**

<sup>8</sup>Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: <sup>9</sup>When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. <sup>10</sup>Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. <sup>11</sup>So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

<sup>12</sup>Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. <sup>13</sup>But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

<sup>14</sup>For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; <sup>15</sup>While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. <sup>16</sup>For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

<sup>17</sup>But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup>And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? <sup>19</sup>So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

What happened to them could happen to us. The implication is that if we do not use our authority, we can end up like they did.

One of the most difficult things in the ministry is to motivate God's people to believe His promises and rally people to pray and intercede. When the devil gets into our lives, something bad happens. It sometimes takes something bad happening before we begin to obey God and do what we know we are supposed to do. This is what happened to Jonah.

**I want to encourage you to spend at least one hour every day in prayer. Before you pray each day, I would like you to read the following scriptures:**

#### **Romans 8: 26-28:**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup>And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

#### **Ephesians 1: 15-23:**

<sup>15</sup>...I... <sup>16</sup>Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; <sup>17</sup>That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

<sup>18</sup>The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, <sup>20</sup>Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the

heavenly places,

<sup>21</sup>Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: <sup>22</sup>And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

### **Ephesians 3: 15 - 23:**

<sup>15</sup>...I... <sup>16</sup>Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; <sup>17</sup>That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

<sup>18</sup>The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, <sup>20</sup>Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

<sup>21</sup>Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: <sup>22</sup>And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

### **Ephesians 6: 10-19:**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

<sup>13</sup>Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having your loins girt

about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup>And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

<sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: <sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

<sup>19</sup>And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.

I have enclosed a prayer for America that I would encourage you to read daily.

Your partner in faith getting the Word of faith out to all the world,

*Pastor Rich*

## **A PRAYER FOR AMERICA**

Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus to pray and intercede on behalf of the people of the United States of America. You said in 1 Timothy 2:1-4 to pray for our leaders so we can live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

God, I believe You raised our nation up for the purpose of financing and preaching the gospel to all the world. There's still much more for our nation to do to bring in the end-time harvest, one of which is being a living example of one nation under God and being a visible witnesses and testimony to all the world.

I thank You for all the privileges and freedoms that we have in our nation. Jesus said that whatsoever I ask the Father in His Name, You will give it to me (John 16:24). So, I'm asking You in Jesus' Name to give our leaders wisdom, knowledge, and direction, as well as to protect our nation from any ungodly teachings or influences. I'm also asking that the gospel be proclaimed throughout all of our nation, as well as from our nation to the whole world.

God, Jesus said, **...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father** (John 14:9). Jesus never hurt or harmed anyone, but He came to reveal the Father God to us. He said He didn't come to condemn, but to save. So I thank You for Your grace, mercy, and

compassion on and toward America. I thank You that You're not punishing, judging, or condemning America. It's Satan who **...cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy** (John 10:10). Jesus came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. You've blessed us so we can be a blessing to all the world, because You're a good God. You said in James 1:17 that every good gift and every perfect gift is from You.

I pray that every day, more Americans are receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior and walking in the fulness of God and fulfilling the Great Commission. I thank You for divine protection over every U.S. citizen in our nation and abroad, over every foreign visitor, over our government, and our armed forces. I pray that if the devil has anything planned, known or unknown, it be revealed by the power the Holy Spirit. For You promised in Mark 4:21 that there is nothing hidden, which shall not be manifested.

I thank You that every church in America becomes a house of prayer; that revival sweeps across America and around the world; that all decisions made in our Congress, Supreme Court, and Senate are based upon Your Word and prayer; that our economy flourishes; that we prosper abundantly, and that all nations see us as a blessed and delightsome land.

I pray that we always help protect Israel and Jerusalem; that we always feed the hungry and poor of this world and have a giving heart; and that we always do those things which are pleasing in Your sight. I pray that we, as the body of Christ, are doing our part in travailing, interceding, and pleading our cause, and that each of us is an able minister of the New Covenant.

I pray that the religious leaders of our nation, and all the body of Christ, have the revelation that we're no longer under the Old Covenant, but under a New Covenant, and that we walk in the fulness of our New Covenant authority and power.

I ask You to forgive us of all our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I pray that we fulfill the plan and purpose for which You established us as a nation, and that we always trust in You and put You first. Thank You, Father God, for sparing and saving America; and most of all, thank You God, for making Jesus Lord over the United States of America, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Satan, I come against you in the Name of Jesus and the written Word of God. According to Matthew 18:18, I bind you from our nation, the United States of America, in Jesus' Name. I refuse to let You have my country! I'm a child of God and I have authority over you. You are a defeated enemy and you're under my**

**feet. Jesus has given His Name to me, the Name which is above every name. And, in and through the Name of Jesus and the written Word of God, you cannot attack my nation's economy, the people of this nation, or me, or my family, for I forbid it! It's written, Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world ( 1 John 4:4). I refuse to let you steal, kill, or destroy in the United States of America, in Jesus' Name.**

**Pastor Jesse Rich**

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