

The Need to Pray and Intercede for Others

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.**

First of all, we believers need to 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 felt the need to pray more. Some people have even gone so far as to start a life of prayer, setting aside time to seek God and intercede for others. But for whatever the reason might have been, they drifted away.

It takes a lot of work, diligence, and effort *on our part* to maintain our prayer life. I think what will help us to 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 will happen as we reap the benefits that come through fellowshiping with our Father God, and when we see that we can't make it without Him.

Romans 12:1, 2: 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.* 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: Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, *Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.* And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, *My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

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.* And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, *What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

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.* And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

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. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.*

Prayer helps us receive direction from God, and helps us find out what the perfect will of God is for our life. 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 also produces carnality, which will cause an individual 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 of 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 their 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 don't realize it many times, but we're slowly yielding to the plan of the devil, who sets up traps for believers to fall into, just as we read 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 it. But that's 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's giving us so much attention. *He is the deceiver.*

Prayer exposes the devil. Prayer helps us to 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 to 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; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Colossians 4:2, 3, 12: Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; 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: ⁴That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. 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. 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 this earth.

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." But 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.**

2 Corinthians 4:3, 4: But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 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 this 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 that Satan would want a person to believe, so that God can get all the blame for the disasters and heartaches. Whether our nation sinks and swims is going to be up to us, as the church, 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 such as: *"What ever 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 then known as *"the church in the wilderness."* The majority of the church of that day 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, **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; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.**

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 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. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

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. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 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: Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

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

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

But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness? And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

What happened to them could happen to us. The implication is that we are not using our authority as we should. One of the most difficult things there is in the ministry is to motivate God's people to believe His promises and to rally people to pray and intercede. When the devil gets into our lives, something bad happens. It sometimes takes something bad to happen before we begin to obey God and go back and do what we know we are supposed to do.

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: 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. 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. 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.

The book of Ephesians; especially: **Ephesians 1:15-23**

...I Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 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:

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, And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

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: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

And, especially to help you see how much authority you have and how much depends on you,

Ephesians 6:10-19: ¹Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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*.

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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

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

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 look forward to sharing with you tomorrow.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

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