

“Please Pray for Me”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. 1Thes. 5:25 - “Brethren, pray for us.”
- B. In asking for prayer, Paul acknowledged his:
 - 1. Need for Divine help,
 - 2. Dependence upon God’s Providence,
 - 3. Conviction that God answers prayer,
 - 4. Trust in his brethren to live righteously that their prayers would be heard
- C. We should understand that when we ask for prayer, we are communicating to others a great spiritual desire.
 - 1. We will come to better know those who ask us for prayer.
 - 2. By a wide margin, asking for prayers is the most common request I receive from others in my service as a minister.
- D. Intercessory prayer is a blessing and a duty, a gift and a burden, a power and a vulnerability
 - 1. “Prayer does not equip us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work.” (Oswald Chambers)
 - 2. “Prayer is not appointed for the furnishing of God with the knowledge of what we need, but it is designed as a confession to Him of our sense of the need.” (Arthur W. Pink)
 - 3. “To stand before men on behalf of God is one thing. To stand before God on behalf of men is something entirely different.” (Leonard Ravenhill)
 - 4. “Intercessory prayer is exceedingly prevalent. What wonders it has wrought! The Word of God teems with its marvelous deeds. Believer, thou hast a mighty engine in thy hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and thou shalt surely be a benefactor to thy brethren. So the preacher of the gospel asks your prayers: and it is a part of the duties arising out of the relationship between Christian men that those who are taught should pray for those who teach God’s Word. We cannot all argue, but we can all pray; we cannot all be leaders, but we can all be pleaders; we cannot all be mighty in rhetoric, but we can all be prevalent in prayer. I would sooner see you eloquent with God than with men.” (Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

I. NEED FOR GOD’S HELP

- A. Paul often asked those with whom he worked to pray for him.
 - 1. 1Thes. 5:25; Heb. 13:18; Rom. 15:30; Eph. 6:18-19; Col. 4:3
- B. Paul acknowledged his need for Divine help
 - 1. Many things are outside of our control.
 - 2. Some jobs are too big to be done without God.
 - 3. Often our own strength is not enough.
 - 4. But through Christ, we can do all things - Phil. 4:13.
- C. God gives help to those who pray for it.
 - 1. Matt. 7:7-11, 28:20; 2Tim. 4:17
 - 2. When we request prayers, we acknowledge our need for Divine help.

II. DEPENDENCE ON GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- A. Even though Paul lived in a time of miracles, God didn't supply all of his wants miraculously.
 - 1. Paul had a thorn in the flesh that God didn't remove - 2Cor. 12:7-9
 - 2. Paul's coworkers got sick, i.e. Trophimus - 2Tim. 4:20
 - 3. Paul had to eat - Acts 20:11, 27:35
 - 4. Paul also needed clothing and shelter, and he depended on God's Providence to receive these things.
 - a. Matt. 6:33 is a promise of God's Providence, not His miracles
 - 5. Paul needed aid in personal safety and protection - 2Cor. 11:26
- B. In asking for prayers, we acknowledge the role of God's Providence.

III. CONVICTION THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

- A. The Bible teaches that God answers prayer for those who believe and obey.
 - 1. Matt. 21:22; 1John 3:22
 - 2. Asking others for prayer manifests this belief.
- B. For God to answer our prayers, we must ask acceptably.
 - 1. We must ask according to His will - 1John 5:14
 - 2. We must not ask out of selfishness - James 4:3
 - 3. We must ask in faith - James 1:6-7
 - 4. We must ask persistently - Luke 18:1
- C. When we ask others to pray for us, we are acknowledging our conviction that God answers prayer.

IV. TRUSTING THAT BRETHREN ARE LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY

- A. God answers the prayers of the righteous.
 - 1. They accomplish a great deal - James 5:16-18
 - 2. The faithful are assured that God will respond to their prayers
 - a. 1Peter 3:12; Prov. 15:29
- B. When we ask others for prayers, we are declaring our trust in their faithfulness and righteousness before God.
 - 1. When someone asks me to pray for them, I consider it a greater compliment than when they comment on the sermon or class.

Conclusion:

A. "Prayer is more powerful than habits, heredity, and natural tendencies. It can overcome all these. It is more powerful than the forces that hold the planets in place. Prayer, though it comes from the heart of an unlearned child of God, can suspend the laws of the universe, if such be God's will, just as the sun stood still when Joshua prayed. There is no other power on earth that the enemy of souls hates and fears as he does prayer. We are told that 'Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.'" (Matilda Andross, "The Life That Wins" p. 38)