

Lesson 12: Living With Each Other (Wednesday)

Praying for One Another

Prayer – What happens when we talk?

If you haven't seen the program When we talk on 3ABN – encourage you – it is such a great program. When we talk we come to understand each other, we connect, we grow, solve problems, learn, heal, we see other perspectives, relationships are made tighter. The people we talk to are the ones who we are doing life together with.

What happens when we talk with God? Same as above but more – communion-connect, receiving fresh supplies, faith is strengthened, empowered to resist evil, enter into presence of HS, revived, prepared, captivity is turned, moves the Arm of the Omnipotent, relationship with God is made tighter. “to strengthen this relationship and satisfy our emotional and spiritual needs, we must learn the power of prayer.” Pr 3 we have emotional and spiritual needs and they are satisfied when we talk – To God!

Open your mouth wide and I will fill it -

The Bible verses for Wed lesson Co 4:2 Paul says, “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving”

We are **earnest** when something is important to us. The more important the more earnest **Vigilant** – suggests a level of alertness and intensity, intentionality

With **thanksgiving** – don't you love it when people have an attitude of gratitude, appreciate you, thankful for you – apparently so does God.

v. 3 - “Meanwhile praying also for us” – Paul is asking that the Colossians would pray for him. Paul is praying for himself, why would he seek for others to pray for him as well?

Let's talk about this: Prayer is an essential part of the plan of salvation, redemption of man, reception of the HS, of receiving victory and power.

The way this sinful world is set up right now = God cannot do all He wants to do for us

James? You've heard: prayer is the key in the hand of faith that unlocks heaven's storehouse. Prayer moves God's hand – it enables Him to do for us what He wants to do for us, but which He is limited to do because of the logistics of the great controversy and Satan's authority on this planet.

When we gave our lives to Christ we enlisted in His army. As Kingdom soldiers our warfare is not to be just for ourselves but for others. Prayer is our most powerful weapon we can wield against evil. And that is because we do not fight in our own strength –we are completely dependent upon the Commander of the army of the Lord.

Our prayers enter the War Room – The Situation Room (west wing of the white house) – the Sanctuary above where prayer enters

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In response to those prayers Mighty Angels are dispatched “Ministering angels are waiting about the throne to instantly obey the mandate of Jesus Christ to answer every prayer offered in earnest, living faith” 2 SM377

“By your fervent prayers of faith you can move the arm that moves the world”

“It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.” GC 525

We have not because we ask not- James 4

What happens when we pray for others?

Praying for others is one of the most Christ-like things we can do.

Jesus said – Peter I am praying for you that your faith won’t fail.

I will ask the Father and He will send you the Comforter.

The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us.

We see amazing things happen in the Bible when God’s people pray for others.

- The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed, not only for himself, but for those who were opposing him. When he felt earnestly desirous that the souls that had trespassed against him might be helped, he himself received help. Let us pray, not only for ourselves but for those who have hurt us, and are continuing to hurt us. Pr 244

Moses - in the battle against Amalek (desc of Esau) hands held up in entreaty to God, Israel prevailed but when he let down his hands, enemy prevailed. (Ex 17) Pray for the victory of the cross to be experienced in the lives of those who haven’t experienced it yet. Appealing to Him to manifest His power in behalf of the perishing Pr 42

- When early church prayed for imprisoned Peter/ angel– set free
- Paul asking for prayer from the colossians- specific request: not to strengthen his defense (Paul’s in prison) but to empower his offense- that a door would be opened to speak the mystery of Christ
- When Jesus prayed Thy kingdom come- this was no idle prayer. He was embued to make it happen.
- V. 2 “praying also for us that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest – as I ought to speak.” Paul is in chains but the most important thing to him: the cause of the kingdom.

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These words written so long ago move me. Do you feel the HS impressing your heart and minds with these words? May we start praying like this: doors of opportunity would be opened for us, for missionaries, we would be given utterance

You who feel too unworthy or far away for God to hear – take heart Christ neglects no one. Not one word is lost. He hears the cries of the weakest. Unlimited resources and power are

Prayer is the secret of our success in any and every area of life.

When we unite in prayer we can expect power greater than if in answer to individual prayer

What happens when we don't talk? – none of this - disintegrating, deteriorating, diseased experience – we can still have a form confuse our self righteousness for the real thing

Lose our hold on God religious experience becomes unhealthy

Secret of success is in asking

He presents as His own desire in that soul's behalf