

CBC BIBLE STUDY

OCTOBER 18, 2023

THE CALL FOR CHRISTIANS TO PRAY

Desire alone will not solve the need for prayer!

Matthew 26:38-43 NLT

“He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!” Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open.”

1. PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER!N

James 5:16 NKJV

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

NLT

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

James 5:16 NLT

1. TO NOT PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER IS SIN!

A Christian who refuses to pray for others is unbiblical; as much as not sharing God's Word.

PRAYERLESSNESS IS SIN!

Romans 6:18

"We are slaves of righteousness." We are now free from slavery to sin.

Despite "desires of the flesh" pulling us towards sin, believers still have an unceasing desire to do what is right.

Galatians 5:16-18 NLT

"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses."

The SPIRIT will never permit Christians to tolerate sin in their lives. This includes prayerlessness, for prayerlessness is SIN!!!

1. PRAYER GLORIFIES GOD!

Psalms 50:15 NKJV

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.""

Every troubled moment—every challenge we face—every struggle—is an opportunity to GLORIFY God. In comforting those who may be sick—teaching new

converts—walking through difficulties with others—all of these activities bring glory to God.

Calling on Him actually HONORS him. When God answers our prayers on behalf of others, He get the GLORY. When God works things out for people based on our prayers, He gets the GLORY!!!

John Newton hymn:

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare
Jesus loves to answer prayer
He himself has bid thee pray
Therefore will not say thee nay

Thou are coming to a King
Large petitions with thee bring
For, His grace and power are such
None can ever ask too much.

By asking God to work in our struggles, we give Him the glory He deserves!

1. IMITATE LEADERS WHO PRAY FOR THE FLOCK!

Hebrews 13:7 NKJV

“Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.”

Observe the prayer life of those godly leaders around you (not positional) and then model what you learn from them.

Colossians 1:9-10 NKJV

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and

spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”

A. Continuous Prayer

Colossians 4:12 NKJV

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

A. Always and Fervently (in prayer)

1. PRIORITY OF PRAYER (leaders)

New Testament Ministry requires New Testament prayer!!!

Acts 6:1-4 NKJV

“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.””

Choosing the BEST rather than the GOOD!!!

Without PRAYER, power is soon diminished!

Without PRAYER, focus is soon gone!

Acts 2:42-43 NKJV

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”

1. PRAYING FOR TRANSFORMATION

A loving brother or sister desires the best for the family. Our desire ought be for the spiritual growth of not only ourselves, but that every member of the body grows toward maturity! Our behavior as Christians ought be an example to those around us—who interact with us or observe our behavior.

The power of God—accessed through PRAYER—enables persons to live a righteous and holy life.

Colossians 1:9-11 NKJV

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;”

By prayer, we access knowledge, wisdom, understanding, strength, power, endurance, and patience—all that we need to live a transformed and victorious life.

WE SIMPLY NEED TO ASK GOD IN PRAYER—WITH PURE MOTIVES

James 4:1-3 NKJV

“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

1. "PRAYER IS HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS!"

James 5:13-15 NKJV

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

James 5:17-18 NKJV

"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit."

You are just like Elijah and serve the same God. God is no respecter of persons! Embrace the fact that you are ordinary—cast yourself at the feet of God—admit your helplessness and weakness—and watch in faith, God do the EXTRAORDINARY through you!!!

IT BEGINS AND ENDS WITH SINCERE AND FAITHFUL PRAYERS!

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Prayer gives glory to God.

Prayer changes both the one praying and other people.

Prayer allows ordinary persons to do extraordinary things.

Adapted from Pray for the Flock