



***SPRING 2018  
DEVOTIONAL***

***“Praying for One  
Another”***

***WEEK 1: May 7<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>***



**PUTTING PRAYER  
IN PRACTICE**

**THE SERIES**

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**Monday, May 7, 2018**

***"Me? Pray for President Trump? No Way!"***

*<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.*

**1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NASB)**

Have you ever seen a President like Trump? What do you think about him? What are some of the popular complaints? Well, some say he is a compulsive liar and lacks self-control. Feminists may view him as disgraceful and disrespectful to women. Many minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics, and Muslims, may see Trump as a racist. Still, there are individuals among his peers who are publishing books to show that he is unfit for the Presidency. Even a popular talk show host, a personal friend of Trump, accused Trump of having a mental illness. Some CNN commentators have said that Trump is a prideful narcissist who demands loyalty from his subordinates and will attack those who oppose him. On the other hand, are Trump supporters who declare that He is the one who will take "our country back." But take it back from who? He also has a myriad of Twitter followers. However, everyone who supports Trump may do so with the wrong motives. Although there are mixed emotions and attitudes on both sides, how do you feel about President Trump? Are you a Trump advocate or adversary? From a biblical perspective, how do you think God feels about President Trump and other people in positions of authority? And how does God expect members of the Body of Christ to respond these

individuals? The truth is, like most of you, I pondered the same question, until now.

First Timothy is a Pauline Epistle containing pastoral instructions from Apostle Paul to Timothy. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Paul explains to Timothy the importance of Church prayer for all men, particularity for Kings and all those in authority. Rulers are responsible for the well being of every person under their charge. So much depends on our Ruler's decisions, character, and plans. The security, freedom, and livelihood of many people depend upon Rulers. Paul tells Timothy that the Church must make prayer for all men a priority, particularly for Kings and men in authority. Paul urges the Church to include entreaties in their prayers. Making entreaties, are acts of making known particular needs on behalf of another. Not only should the Church prayer for Rulers include appeals, but also petitions of intercessional prayer with specific requests and prayers of thanksgiving for all that God has done, is doing, and going to do in and through our leaders.

But you may ask, *"Why should I pray for someone like President Trump, his character flaws, and all of his Whitehouse drama?"* In 1 Timothy 2:2, Paul says so that you can spend your time living a peaceful life, free from commotion and drama, and devote yourself to God, demonstrating love for God and others.

Pray for your President and all those in authority. Rulers need God's wisdom, grace, and mercy just like you do. But more than anything else, what all men really need is the salvation of Christ (1 Timothy. 2:3-4). So, pray for their salvation. You never know. Tomorrow, President Trump just may become a member of Good Hope.

*"Every person is to be subject to governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God." Romans 13:1 (NASB)*

### **"Pray or Live Miserably"**

– Min. Darrell Rose

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018**

**"Father, give \_\_\_\_\_ grace!"**

*"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

**Matthew 5:44 (NASB)**

Who is your "blank"? Maybe your "blank" is someone who physically abused you or your "blank" could have been an absent father. Maybe it was a family member who verbally abused you as far back as you could remember. Your "blank" could have been a bully who picked on you or tormented you as a child. It could even be your boss, who seemingly keeps harassing you for now apparent reason and giving praises and promotions to all of your other co-workers except for you.

Let me ask you again, who is your "blank"? That person who has consistently shows hostility towards you and mistreats you, beyond your comprehension. Yes, that person who, if we were to be honest, many times perhaps you have felt that life would have been so much better had

they not ever existed. Sounds pretty harsh huh? Maybe so, but if I were a betting man, I would put up a hefty wager that those thoughts have one time, or another, entered our minds a time or two; if not more. Why? Although we may be children of God, we are still clothed with this human body called the flesh. So, the question is what is the best way to respond to the "blanks" of our lives?

Today's devotional verse says we are to pray for them. Yes, my friends as hard as they may sound: Praying for every "blank," who wishes us no good, is the best response we can give. Whoever that person(s) is, Our Father says to pray for them. Yes, I know, our flesh, our human pride says our "blanks" don't even deserve ice-cold lemonade on a hot day, let alone prayer. Why? Because our "blanks" hurt us so deeply that our natural tendency is to cry out to them "KARMA! KARMA! KARMA!" We want them to feel the pain that they inflicted on us, if not worst.

There's just one problem with that mind-set that's very important for us to remember and that is what Paul says in Galatians 2:20 that you and "I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..." Simply put, once we have accepted Christ my friends, "There's a new sheriff in town" and we should strive daily to do what He commands us to do.

It certainly is no secret what Jesus would model for us to do. And that is to pray for those who persecutes and mistreats us. He prayed for them before the cross and he prayed for them while on the cross. Remember, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34, NASB). I have to go on record as saying that it certainly is not easy to pray for your "blanks." "But God" that

reminds me of a Scripture over there in Ephesians 2:4a that says, " But God, being rich and mercy . . ." The point is that your blanks don't deserve anything good and we don't either. If it wasn't for God's grace and mercy, you and I would have lost our minds. My friends, that thought alone ought to give each and every one of us motivation to pray one simple prayer for each and every one of our "blanks".

*Go ahead do it right now. Say, "Father help me to give \_\_\_\_\_ grace, as I have received Your grace. In Jesus' Name. Amen!"*

**"Grace is greater than all our sins!"**

– Min. Terry Borens

***Wednesday, May 9, 2018***

## **Beast Mode!**

*Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,*

**Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)**

Marshawn Lynch is a professional football player affectionately known as Beast mode. Whether you know him or not, you can imagine how he gets his name. He has some of the best power runs in NFL history. He was asked, "How does one go into Beast Mode?" He responded by saying, "Beast mode is not something you can just say a lot

and it will happen. Beast mode is inside of you." The beast is a part of you. What am I trying to say? If you are a believer, you have been born again, you have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, or a new creature in Christ Jesus. You are a beast! No I am not calling you ugly. We have a force inside of us called the Holy Spirit that is so powerful it heals the blind, gives life to a lifeless world, and resurrected Christ from the dead. If you are guided by Him you can go beast mode.

In our focal passage Paul writes that we should pray at all times in the Spirit. He instructs the church at Ephesus to do this right after he tells them to put on the full body armor of God. If you would put on the helmet of your salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of the truth, your shield of faith, Sword of the word, and the shoes ready to spread the Good news, it would mean nothing without prayer. Prayer in the Spirit is like the activator leading to the truth, right living, and growing in your faith. Paul encourages us to pray at all time in the Spirit. When you wake up, before you eat, and before you sleep we must pray in the Spirit. The Spirit is in all believers it is how you can go beast mode.

When you pray in the Spirit, you pray in the right mind but, most importantly you pray where your power comes from. Romans 8:26 tells us, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." Without the Spirit we are weak and we do not know how to pray on our own accord. The Spirit leads us in our prayers. Have you ever wondered why you struggle so much as a follower of Christ? I would ask are you praying in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit allows your

prayers to be answered because you are praying the will of God.

My prayer is that we as the Body pray in the Spirit at all times. Just think what the world would look like if all believers prayed on one accord? It would surely be an unstoppable beast mode!

***One of the biggest tragedies of life is not unanswered prayer, but Spiritless prayer.***

– Min. Dennis Campbell, Jr.

***Thursday, May 10, 2018***

### **The Doors of the Church are now open...**

<sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;<sup>3</sup> praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; <sup>4</sup>that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup>Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

**Colossians 4:2-5 (NASB)**

Growing up in a traditional Baptist church there are phrases embedded in your memory because you heard certain ones every Sunday. The benediction was something like this, “May the Lord watch between me and thee while

we are absent one from another.” The Pastor or preacher always said the one I often remember after the sermon. The gospel message would be preached, and the minister would say, “**The doors of the Church are now open.**” This was the opportunity for unbelievers to respond to the good news of Jesus Christ and come to a saving faith.

The phrase is still used in some churches today. But in a real sense, the invitation to accept Jesus Christ is always open whether you are in a group setting (church) or one on one. In our text, the Apostle Paul is writing to what is believed to be young, new believers to give them encouragement and instructions about the ministry of Jesus Christ. He also gave them a ministry update about their imprisonment.

In this epistle the Apostle tells them to be consistent and earnest in prayer for him and the other brothers in ministry who are with him. Specifically, he asked that God keep the doors of the church open. Paul had a singular focus on sharing the gospel that heightened his awareness for gospel sharing opportunities. Paul wants this band of believers to partner with him in spirit and prayer, so that God allows him to snatch up every opportunity to tell an unbeliever about a man from Galilee that can save their soul.

This great evangelist of the New Testament church is a model for us to snatch up every chance to open the doors of the church. Just as Paul challenges the believers at Colossae to pray for him to share the gospel, we must pray for others to seize the gospel moment as well.

*Pray that God gives you and others an open door (multiple opportunities) to share the gospel. Seize the moment with conviction and clarity.*

***'Pray for me please don't forget to pray for me'***

– Min. Ronald Bell Sr.

***Friday, May 11, 2018***

## **I Need You, You Need Me!**

*Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have.*

### **Philippians 4:6 (ERV)**

This time of the year brings back some good ole memories. In the summer, I would go to my aunt's house and run with the "Big Dogs!" My cousin was older than me and he was always getting into stuff. It was so cool, Wow! It gives me chills just thinking about those summers. When I looked back I don't ever remember his parents being at home during those days. What I do remember is going down the streets in the neighborhood and riding motorcycles and fixing on motocross trails to ride our bikes and ride the motorcycles. We really were not getting into any bad stuff, but at the time it felt as though we were turning the world upside down. I became worried about my grades because I was not really paying attention and was not totally focused

in school like I should have been. I did well in school in spite of my worrying. The worrying of today shows us just how much man needs God and just how much we need prayer. Paul addressed this issue of worry with the Philippians.

Philippians 4:6 says, "Don't worry about anything . . ." To worry means to have fear concerning a legitimate issue. But Paul is telling to realize that our God is bigger than our problems and that you to pray to God first for all your worries and turn all your cares over to Him and let Him deal with your worries. Once we make our requests to God in prayer, Paul says, in verse 7, "Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." In other words, regardless of the outcome, you will have God's peace.

Since all believers experience trials and tribulations in life, we should all pray for each other daily! So that we can experience God's peace and comfort, in our situations and circumstances. David offers similar encouragement, when he says, "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord" (Psalm 27:14). This is not a passive waiting, but actively moving forward in our faith trusting God for His strength to help us endure. The Psalmist gives us hope that there is strength in God. When you wait on God He will make your heart become stronger. We should all pray for one another to God for the strength only He can give us. This sounds good, realistically, we can do this together.

Looking at today's society, children, young adults and adults are really experiencing some challenging times. The

text says be worry for nothing. The fact is all people today deal with worry and it has no age or gender. Children are just as worried as adults and are experiencing the same types of acting out. We should shower our children and all our loved ones with prayer! Our prayer should be for man to turn from his ways and run to God's ways. We should pray for unity among all humanity to seek God in truth and spirit. David encouraged the Philippian's to have this attitude like Christ Jesus. The attitude Jesus showed that David says to have is of giving of yourself for the sake of other. As the word reads, "Do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interests of others." (Phil.2:4)

As we fast approach the summer, these days are not like the time when I would go and hang out with the "Big Dogs!" We have more people filled with worry, broken down and looking for peace!

When you see or know of someone who is going through the difficulties of life, pray for them. When you are going through your difficulties of life, don't be ashamed to ask your brother or sister in Christ to pray for you. Pray that during these times, they can experience God's love and peace.

***If you replace worry with believing prayer, you will  
replace turmoil with God's peace.***

- Min. John Burroughs