

The Importance of Praying for Others

The Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul said to continue in prayer, pray without ceasing, pray always with all prayer, and labor fervently in prayer. In 1 John 5:15&16, the Holy Spirit said, **And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death .**

And, as the Holy Spirit said through James in James 5:16, **Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.** The Holy Spirit said in 1 Timothy 2:1,2, **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.**

When things happen to our leaders and/or our ministers, it is a warning that we, as the church, have not been praying enough for those in prominent positions. God is not going to hold these individuals totally responsible - it's also on our accounts as believers, due to a lack of prayer, and because there is a sin of not praying for others: **Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you...** (1 Samuel 12:23).

When God moves on our hearts and so plainly teaches us in His Word to pray for others, and we don't, we are held liable as well. When we see our brother or sister headed in the wrong direction, or living in sin, that's not the time to go into denial, thinking that they're okay, because they are a good Christian. That's the time to begin coming against the devil that they're listening to and begin interceding for them in the spirit by saying, "God, I don't know exactly what's going on in my brother's/sister's life, but You said in 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.** I'm just going to trust that while I'm praying in the spirit, the Holy Spirit is making intercession for _____". And just call out their name to God in prayer.

Some have the opinion and attitude that Cain had: "Am I my brother's keeper?" Well, we've been taught from the Word of God that when you see your brother sin, you are to pray for him. Also, in Galatians 6:1-2, it says, **Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.** Don't just pray, "Oh, God, help them," and don't just pray so you can tell other people that you've been praying for someone, because that's just pride and ego.

No. It takes persevering, interceding, and travailing in the spirit to get these situations turned around, so these people's eyes of their understanding will be

enlightened and they come to themselves. In other words, put quality time into prayer, and then don't tell anybody that you're doing it, because that can get into boasting and you lose your reward. Prayer is like fasting and giving. It is done in the strictest confidentiality. It is done privately, as unto the Lord. We don't want to get up and sound the trumpet that we've been praying, because we have a lot of people who talk about prayer in the church, and very few who pray.

That evangelist's wife went to the bars and nightclubs and was insistent that her husband was not to go with her, because she was bored with her marriage. She lost her zeal for God, and the things of the world looked much more exciting than the things of God. In 2 Timothy 4:9, Paul said, **For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica.** Some people just love the world more than they love God. So you can see, there's a lot more to prayer and we hold an awesome responsibility to pray and intercede for others. You can't keep people from doing what they want to do; all you can do is pray and hope that someday, they will come to themselves. **And keep yourself built up in prayer, so the same thing won't happen to you!**

So, let's continue in prayer, so that those who've been taken captive by the devil may recover themselves to the will of God! **Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will** (2 Timothy 2:22-26).

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow. Remember that God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

Pastor Jesse Rich

Jesse Rich Ministries

P.O. Box 237170

New York, NY 10023

PHONE: (212) 501-7999

Email: www.JesseRichMinistries.com/contact.htm

Website: www.JesseRichMinistries.com