

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
11-30-17

By Pastor David W. Cheatwood
Of the Hedrick Church of God
info@hedrickchurchofgod.org

ARE OUR PRAYERS IMPORTANT?

A clergyman from New York, during a call on President Lincoln at the White House said; "I have not come to ask any favors of you, Mr. President; I have only come to say that the loyal people of the North are sustaining you and will continue to do so. We are giving you all that we have, the lives of our sons as well as our confidence and our prayers. You must know that no boy's father or mother ever kneels in prayer these days without asking God to give you strength and wisdom."

His eyes brimming with tears, Mr. Lincoln replied: "But for those prayers, I should have faltered and perhaps failed long ago. Tell every father and mother you know to keep on praying, and I will keep on fighting, for I know God is on our side."

As the clergyman started to leave the room, Mr. Lincoln held him by the hands and said; "I suppose I may consider this as sort of a pastoral call?" "Yes," replied the clergyman. "Out in our country," replied Lincoln, "when a parson makes a pastoral call, it was always the custom for the folks to ask him to lead in prayer, and I should like to ask you to pray with me today. Pray that I may have the strength and the wisdom."

The two men knelt side by side, and the clergyman offered the most fervent plea to Almighty God that ever fell from his lips. As they arose, the President clasped his visitor's hand and remarked in a satisfied sort of way: "I feel better."

Have you prayed for our President? Are you asking God to help him and give him wisdom to make the right decisions? We need to be praying for him, our nation and those around us. We are a people in need of strong courageous prayers asking God for guidance and direction so that we might live at peace with all men.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 (NASB)

12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you

instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

Prayer is a powerful force. We seek God and ask His favor, we ask His direction, we offer prayer for others and their needs, and we offer prayers of thanks and Praise to the One who created us.

Have you prayed for your preacher today? Do you appreciate him enough to ask God to direct his path and encourage him in his efforts to minister to others?

Pastors, are you praying for your people, our community, the welfare of the church and those we serve?

If we want positive change in our world, nation, state and neighborhood we need to get serious with our prayers. God is listening and wants to help, but we must seek His wisdom and direction in our lives if we hope to succeed. Without His help we are not going to accomplish much that will last.

Our text today talks about "praying without ceasing" and that means we need this right attitude of dependence on God every moment of every day. Is that your attitude as you start your day and do you maintain that attitude throughout your day?

We have much to be thankful about in our lives. Sometimes our problem is our stinking thinking and what we need is an attitude of gratitude. When we are aware of God's blessings in our lives and give thanks for them we are in the right frame of mind to receive His blessings and direction. If we are doing our own thing and asking Him to bless it we are not in the right frame of mind.

I wonder how many times you and I have missed God's blessings because we were not thinking right in the first place? God's power is available to us and we can become forces for good, but only when we are in a right relationship with God and others.

Did you notice the words "abstain from every form of evil" in our text? Many prayers are not blessed by God because they are based on evil instead of good. They are based on greed and not need. We need to be sure our prayers are

in harmony with God and His will if we hope they will be answered and accomplished.

So What Shall We Do?

We have just completed a season of Thanksgiving and are now entering into a season of Giving. One of the best gifts you can give to anyone is your prayers for them.

We are all encouraged and blessed when others pray for us. Remember President Lincoln and his reaction to the prayers of the visiting clergyman? He felt better and this gave him the strength to continue on with the task that lay before him. Who could you help today by offering a prayer on their behalf that might let them know they are not alone on their journey through the tough times? Take some time, pray with them and watch God go to work in their lives in a positive way.

For more information, Pastor David W. Cheatwood may be reached at info@hedrickchurchofgod.org