

Can I Pray For You?

"For the Win" series- Part 5

Connect: What do you think is the secret to a good life?

Hook:

The other day I (Pastor Kirk) came across an old prayer list that I had made in 1990. I had used it in my prayer time, adding to the list as I became aware of other needs, and putting a "PTL" beside those prayers that I felt had been answered. I now sat slogging over those names and prayer requests knowing that 28 years had passed since those prayers had been made.

It caused me to make a few observations about my long ago prayers:

1. Prayer is so urgent because we have but a short time to pray. I noted that some of the people I had been praying for had died within a short time.
2. Sometimes we pray for things, not realizing how insignificant they will become in the days to come. What seems important today, can be easily forgotten during traumatic events we may face tomorrow.
3. Sometimes we pray for things that keep requiring prayer, year after year. For example, my prayer list for our nation in 1990 would be current and still needed today in 2018.
4. Sometimes prayers are answered in such a way that it leaves great memories and a sense of peace. I saw where God came through in big ways and all these years later, I am grateful for His faithfulness.

Think about my observations above. Can you share an example or two where you witnessed the same lessons in your prayer life?

Pastor Brandon in his latest lesson on spiritual warfare, referred to prayer as one of the greatest weapons we can bear in our spiritual battles. We should not only be prayer warriors on our own behalf, but also on the behalf of others.

Often times we communicate that we will pray for someone. When the Holy Spirit prompts us to do so, what could we pray for that person that would go beyond the immediate need?

For our study on prayer today, Paul gives us an ideal prayer list in the following text:

Book: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

2Th 1:11 So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of His call. May He give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.

2Th 1:12 Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with Him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Look:

Paul's prayer list for the believers includes the following. Please discuss each one of these prayer requests and how one would know that God has answered in the positive:

1. God would count them worthy of His call to salvation.
2. God would help them to accomplish all of their works in His power.
3. That Jesus would be glorified in their life.
4. That one day Jesus would honor them because of God's grace.

Looking again at each of the above 4 prayer requests, discuss the following questions:

1. What is the Holy Spirit's involvement in each request?
2. How might Satan try to thwart each of prayer needs from becoming reality?
3. Which one of the four is most needful in your life at this moment?
4. God's personal call to us for salvation is a wonderful gift. How does one live a life worthy of that gift?

Took:

1. Assign a prayer warrior for each member of your small group and covenant to pray about a need that member has for the next week.

Take time before you dismiss to receive prayer requests and then pray asking intentionally for the Holy Spirit to work and empower.