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Prayer Pt 2 Pray for brethren and our enemies

This is our second study on prayer. In our previous teaching we established a meaning from scripture for the word pray and outlined three points– (i) King Solomon prayed acknowledging God first, (ii) Daniel set his face unto the Lord to seek him by prayer and supplication, fasting, sackcloth and ashes, and (iii) David’s prayer included an acknowledgement of his sin. In this study we establish an additional three points– (i) Pray for the brethren always, (ii) Pray– giving thanks unto God, and (iii) Pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our three points–

1. Pray for the brethren always!

“I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, [22] But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you” (Philemon 1: 4 & 22).

2. Pray– giving thanks unto God

“For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; [14] And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you” (2 Cor.9: 12, 14).

3. Pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matt.5: 44). See also Lk 6:28

Illustration

There are many brethren that have laboured in the front-line of the battle– who in their latter years know the value of praying for the work, the labourers and other brethren– that they may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God
“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God” (Col.4: 12).

Questions of the scriptures

- i) Is it good to ask the brethren to pray for us – or is it a sign of weakness?
- ii) What happens when we pray for our brethren?

Answers from the scriptures

- i) It is good to ask the brethren for prayer

“Brethren, pray for us” (1Thes 5:25).

“Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly” (Heb.13: 18).

That the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you” (2 Thes.3: 1).

- ii) When we pray for our brethren we help them

“Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf” (2 Cor.1: 11).

May this study from the scriptures be a catalyst for us all to develop a heart for labouring fervently in prayer– for our brethren and the lost! To the glory of God!