

Title: The Need of Prayer

Text: Ephesians 6:18-24

Take your Bibles and turn to Ephesians chapter 6. What a wonderful way to conclude this study of the book of Ephesians on the NEED OF PRAYER. What a wonderful to conclude a discussion on Spiritual armor and fighting battles for Christ by taking about prayer.

If I were to ask you what is the most important thing that you could do as a christian?, I wonder if your aswer would be PRAYER.

In taking about doing something for the Lord, many people will say, "well, don't just pray"....I don't like that!!!! My theology doesn't fit that thought. Because, according to the Bible, the most important thing that you can do as a believer is PRAYER. And the most important thing that you can do for others is to PRAY FOR THEM. Prayer is not a lesser thing. That is the greatest thing.

And I believe the prayerlessness of most of God's people is the reason why we don't have power. And the reason why we are not effective with people. There is nothing as important as the ministry of prayer. And ^{through} ~~the~~ no one else knows, God knows. And that is all that really matters.

Ephesians: beginning with Vs 18....(READ 6:18-24)

Join me in a moment of prayer as we begin

Father, we thank you again for the privilege of this fellowship together. Of singing your praisises and hearing your Word. And Father, we pray, that you would teach us today about the need of prayer. That we might understand this mighty weapon that sits in the hand of the believer. That we might call upon your d wonderful resources. That ;you are able to do far more then we could ever dream or vision. And we thank you Lord, And we praise your lovely name.....In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our lord and Saviour, we pray.....Amen.....

(2C) I want to divide this section up into just ~~four~~ ^{three} simple ways ^{concerning our need of prayer}

(1D) And I want to start with vs 18 which I consider to be one of the key verses of the Bible on the subject of prayer. ~~And to say right off the bat that we willn't ever be doing the prayer that God wants us to until we pray with dedication.~~ ^{Because, this verse teaches the need of dedication in prayer} And there isn't a verse that I know of that speaks more forceably to the issue of dedicated praying then Ephesians 6:18.

But, I have got ~~to tell you a few things about that Vs~~ ¹⁸ before we begin.

(1E) First of all, it is connected with the context. It is not even a new paragraph. It ~~is~~ ^{is to be taken} ~~is~~ talking in the content of spiritual armor.

Look back at verse 10. "Finally, be strong in the Lord." Then Paul goes on discussing putting on the armor of God.

Then verse 18 says "WITH". It is a preposition meaning that you put on the armor of God through the agency of Prayer and Petitions.

In other words, you are ~~not~~ ready for spiritual battle, or defeated the problems of temptation and sin in your life until you understand the role of prayer. All the spiritual armor is made effective by prayer. It is the whole context. I am not strong in the Lord until I pray. Prayer is the instrument, according to this text, of being ready for spiritual battle.

When I face sin, it is not trusting myself that is going to win the day. It is prayer.

Sometimes pray is the last thing we do. ~~Dear friends,~~ ^{is n.t. w?} it ought to be the first.

(2F) ^{How several} When Paul says with "all prayer and petition" he means that there is different kinds. "With all"...With every kind there is.

There are many different kinds of Prayer in the Bible. But, I want to center in on the two kinds mention here in ~~four~~ ^{vs 18}; "With all prayer and petition."

(1F) The first word "prayer" is used 124 times in the N.T. Eventently it is pretty important. And the Greek word simply means to "give thanks toward"...It is always used in reference to God. It is a word of worship and praise and blessing towards the Lord. What it is saying is that it is the number one word on prayer.

In the hands

Our prayer ought to be more worship and praise to the Lord than anything else. And often that is the element that is missing. We are so quick to lay before God our 36 request, that we haven't thought to praise and to worship and to honor the Lord.

The Psalmist said: "Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name." "Oh, let us exhort the Lord together. Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord."

So, When we talk about dedicated praying we have to talk about ^{a prayer life} ~~the prayer~~ that worships the Lord. *Was your prayer like worship the Lord?*

(2F) The second word "petition" is simply the word based on "NEED". And a certain urgency characterizes it.

When you talk about the first word "prayer" you are talking about the "WHO" of prayer. Prayer towards God. Blessing ~~and~~ ^{TO} worshipping God

When you talk about petition you are talking about "the how of prayer". That you don't come passively, with a little quickee to God before you hit the sack. Or, a little quick prayer before your eat. What we are talking about here is earnest prayer....pleading prayer....fervent prayer.

(50) "Petition" is not seemly seeking a request. But there is the element of the begger's heart here. There is the element of one ~~who~~ who knows his need. And he hasn't got time for lesser things. The most important thing that he has got to do is pray.

So, Paul says to come "with all pray and petition."

(20) Now, there are three things that I want to point out to you in this verse about dedicated prayer.

(1E) First of all, as to time. The Bible says in Vs 18 "pray at all times". Now, I don't know if that phrase has ever bothered you. But, let's suppose for a moment that you are driving on the freeway with a group of friends, during the rush hour, and you are at the wheel, and you say..."LET'S HAVE A ^{IFU} ~~Time~~ WORD OF PRAYER."

Friends, that is not the time to bow your heads and close your eyes... Obvisously, it would get you into trouble...Right?...

So, what does it mean to pray at all times? Paul wrote in 1 Thess 5:17 "to pray without ceasing." Jesus said in Luke 18:1 "men ought always to pray." WHAT ~~DOES~~ DOES THAT MEAN?

Well, I get some help here because the word "time" is not the word for chronological time, (Meaning praying at every moment). It is the word for "seasons". It is the same ~~thing~~ ^{idea}, for example, that we find back in Ephesians 5: 16...~~Do you remember that~~ Where ~~it~~ ^{Paul} says "making the most of your time, because the days are evil."

It is making the most of opportunity. It is a season of prayer. It is the opportunity of prayer.

NOW, I believe this is ~~very~~ very important to understand that when that situation faces you, and the situation in the context of verses 10 to 17 has been spiritual warfare.....the evil day....the schemes of the devil. And when that situation faces you, what do you do?.....PRAY.....

The first thing you do is not to talk with other believers. The first thing you do is not to reveal your plans for achieving victory....THE FIRST THING YOU NEED TO DO IS PRAY, SAYS THE LORD.

Whatever the situation is: you might be talking with a friend...doing some task....going to work....facing a problem.....facing a decision.... WHATEVER IS THE ISSUE, PRAY AT ALL TIMES OR SEASONS....Meaning at every situation or opportunity....Pray.

NOW the truth of the matter is, depending on how we think of our own abilities, that will be guide line on how much we pray. If you feel that you can handle the matter, then why pray.....

ONE Have you ever noticed how we are at handling the matter? That should teach us that we should have prayed first.

When Nehemiah stood before ^(great king) (king Artaxerxes) of Persia, knowing that they had been in captivity, and knowing that Jerusalem was in ruins and the people of God were not doing anything about it, this was an amazing thing that Nehemiah, a simple cup bearing would have the courage to go before that mighty king Artaxerxes and to ask him: to give him permission to allow the Jewish people to return to the land to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

What a situation. It took tremendous courage and boldness, according to the Bible. But, it also says that first of all Nehemiah prayed.

And then when the door was cracked ~~u~~opened, the Bible says that Nehemiah again ~~w~~ent to God in prayer. He ~~p~~rayed for the opportunity. When the opportunity was granted he again prayed that he might know how to speak to that king.....PRAY AT ALL TIMES.....IN ALL SITUATIONS.....

(2E) Then, not only the matter of time, but also the matter of attitude.

Vs 18 says to "pray at all times in the spirit."

*an addition to dedicate
Prayer*

Do you pray in the Spirit?

Before you answer that question, let me tell you a little bit about this problem.

You know, in my New American Bible they decided that this is referring to the HOLY SPIRIT. And so they ~~p~~ut a capital "S" on the word "Spirit." It is a matter of judgement as to whether this is referring to the "human" spirit, or the "HOLY" spirit.

And you say, "Well, how do we know?"

Well, first of all, when the word "holy" is there you can always know that it is referring to the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, ususally when it is referring to the HOLY SPIRIT you find the definite article "the" in front of the word Spirit.

Now, in this case these two rules are not found in the Greek text. It simple says "PRAY IN SPIRIT".

Now, the Bible does tell us to pray in THE HOLY SPIRIT. Jude ^{vs} 20 says "building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit."

Romans 8:26 and 27 says "And in the same way THE SPIRIT helps our ~~weakness~~ ^{weakness}; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but THE SPIRIT HIMSELF intercedes for us."

Certainly, we ought always to pray in the Holy Spirit. But, Paul is saying here in Ephesians that there is another possibility. He wouldn't tell you to pray at all times in ~~the~~ spirit, if it wasn't a possible of praying some other way

The phrase is, therefore, important for meaning. Not, that it isn't important to pray by means of the Holy Spirit. But, that is assumed. Every believer prays by means of the Holy Spirit, or you are not praying as God wants you to pray. *So, you see,* ~~I believe~~ there is something else that is involved here. Because of the absence of the definite article "the", I do believe it is referring to the human spirit. Which must of course be in agreement with the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

But, I believe we have a needed truth here. I believe we have a contrast to praying in the flesh. I think the danger in our prayer life is that we are not praying in ~~the~~ spirit at all. In spirit, period... We try to meet all our needs in the flesh.... *taking care of all things ourselves - when all else fails, ^{then} we pray.*

For example Jesus said in John 4:23-24 that God is spirit. ^A And they that worship him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. For the Father is seeking such to worship him."

My Bible tells me that God the Father is looking for people who will worship him in Spirit. Not in the Holy Spirit, but in spirit.

Man is composed of Body, soul, and spirit. The unbeliever is spiritually dead. When the Holy Spirit of God causing the new birth comes into that life, He quickens our spirit so that we can have fellowship with God. That we can begin to grow and to learn. And begin to discern things spiritually.

I Cor 2 says that "he who is spiritual, discerns all things." A new moral discernment enters the life because of the presence of God the Holy Spirit quicken our spirit which was dead in trespasses and sins before we came to Christ.

That is why I believe Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:23 "that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind." You see, that is an obvious reference to your spirit and not the Holy Spirit. And it is saying that you need to be renewed constantly in the spirit of your mind.

So, I believe we are talking here about attitude in prayer. And I believe it is very important that we face the fact that a lot of praying today is not in the proper attitude.... It is not in spirit.

How here is what I mean.

...rightly intended in prayer

Now, I would like to suggest a few things that will help you on this.

(1) Number one, I believe that there is a certain familiarity with Jesus today that is not taught in the Bible. I want you to listen to me carefully. When somebody addressed Jesus in the N.T. they did not call him by "Jesus" alone. They either put the word "Lord" on it, or, simply said "Lord." In other words there is an aspect about our familiarity with Jesus that makes Him so human, and he is that, he is all man. But, so human that we forget who we are talking to. JESUS IS GOD, FRIENDS, IN HUMAN FORM. He is the all-powerful---all knowing---omnipresent GOD.

You know, our Lord, commented a man who didn't even feel worthy to pray in His presences. He beat his breast and fell on his face and said: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

And yet, a lot of us, we come to the Lord with a certain pride and arrangement. ~~And even our verbage betrays us. Even though it is spiritual.~~

and we forget that he is

~~It is to mach, for one who knows the soveriegnity of God.~~

To emphasize what I mean, I would like you to turn to Ecclesiastes chapter 5. I believe the phrase "pray in Spirit" is referring to that mature response to a Holy God where we worship Him. Where our affections, our desires, our goals, our petitions are centered in Him. And not in the flesh. Not to be praying in front of somebody to be seen of men, which Jesus condemned.

And in Ecclesiastes chapter 5 we have a little clue as to what the problem is. In Vs 2 we read; "Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought. Now, if you put a period there that is good advice in any situation. But, notice the context of this advice.

"Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God."

Why? Why should we be hesitant and to think things though clearly before we bring them up in the prsence of God? why/....

Vs 2 says that "God is in heaven and you are on the earth."

What makes us think that we have heaven's perspective? What makes us think that we know what we should pray for? God is in heaven and we are here on the earth. We are praying to someone who already knows everything in human history in one moment of time. Who knows the beginning from the end. Who knows how everything is going to turn out. Knows everything I need even before I ask him. WHAT GIVES ME THE RIGHT TO TELL HIM WHAT I THINK HE SHOULD DO?

Do you pray in spirit?

Oh, don't misunderstand what I am saying. You are to ask. You are to call upon Him. But, I say that there is a lot of fleshly praying to day. It is verbage. Jesus said, "Don't pray like the heathen who through their vain repetition suppose that they will be heard because of their many words."

And this text says that God is in heaven and you are upon the earth. Therefore, let your words be what?...WHAT DOES IT SAY?..... FEW...FEW...

When you get ready to bring that matter before the Lord, let your words be few....few...

And notice verse 3..."For the dream comes through much effort;.... For those of you who are so inclined to interpret your dreams as being from God, I warn you on the bases of that verse.

The last half of Vs 3 says, "the voice of a fool through many words." The concept is bringing the matter up before God.

The Father is seeking those who will worship him in spirit and in truth. Not in error and not in arrangement. And not in pride...and not in carnality... But in spirituality.

Why is it that some of us are more concerned about we say to others in prayer than what we say to God?

Check out the amount of time you spend before others praying in comparison to what you do alone with God.

Our reputation, people, is what people think we are. But, our character, our true spiritual character, is what God knows us to be. And it is what we are in the private places where no one else knows that really counts.

There are many things that go on in the lives of individual believers that ^{No} ~~know~~ one will ever know until they get to heaven, perhaps, and only God knows. But, there isn't anything wrong with that. Nothing wrong with that at all. ~~/For/one/day/it/is/His/words/~~ For one day, it is His words that we want to hear: "Well, done, thy good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of thy Lord."

and So many of us are quick to ~~of~~ judge each other. To think that we really know what is going on in someone's life. We really know what they are like? DO WE? I doubt it seriously...

Only the Lord really knows. And the important thing is what you are in your relationship with Him. Dedicated prayer is the prayer that is in spirit, not in the flesh.

Yum, It is so important that we have the right attitude before God. Philippians 3:3 says to have "no confidence in the flesh," that we are to worship God in spirit.

1) Turn back to Ephesians 6, again, and look at Vs 18... ^{So} Dedicated prayer means "time". You spell it time. In every situation, calling upon God first. Not last..but first.

2) And secondly, ^{dedicated Prayer} it involves the proper attitude in spirit. Make sure that ~~you are~~ worshipping Him. Not just informing other people.

3E) ^{concern dedicated Prayer} And ~~third~~, the matter of alertness. Look again at Vs 18.."pray at all times in spirit, and with this in view." In other words, knowing the importance of that, "be on the alert."

In other words, if I am praying in spirit rather than in flesh I will be more spiritually alert than if I weren't....Obviously....

Be on the alert. That is just the opposite of being sleepy...

I have a personal illustration of what this means. When I was Pastor in Porterville, one of the fine christian men of our church, ^{Fred Sabin} Father passed away. And you know how it is when you have lost a loved one. There is joy in knowing that your loved one has gone home to be with the Lord, yet there is that great sorrow of loss.

And anyway, I went by to visit this dear man of God. And if he hadn't been a dear brother in the Lord, he probably would have shot me. I went by on a thursday afternoon to visit with him. I went by right after lunch. And I had been up late the night before with another family in a crisis situation. And I was tired. And as this dear brother was sharing with me the things upon his heart in the lose of his father, I was havang a hard time staying awake....And he knew it....And he finally said, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO IN THE FUNNERAL.....

And I said brother I need to sleep on it.....And we laughted because he understood....

But, it was true. *I need sleep*
~~I have never felt so bad for sleep in all my life...~~
I was just having a hard time staying awake.

And friends, what this text is saying is that that is what we often are spiritually. The opposite of being on the alert is sleepiness. Your eyes are so heavy that you cann't stay awake. So, he is saying "BE ON THE ALERT".

WHY?...WHY?...Well, consider for a moment what Jesus said in the Garden when he prayed and the three disciples feel asleep. "BE ON THE ALERT AND PRAYER LEST YOU ENTER INTO TEMPTATION."

Could it be, knowing what Ephesians 10 to 18 says, knowing that it is christian armor that needs to be put on so that we can stand against the devil and his schemes, could it be that the one thing we are ignoreing in getting victory over sin is prayer?

Oh, that is to easy!....Really?....You know, sometimes we give our little pat answers....read this verse....read that verse...~~But~~ ^{But} ~~But~~ ^A According to Jesus we should be praying and be alert lest we enter into temptation. ^B

And of course the opposite is true....The reason I never have victory in my life is because I am not praying....Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation.....

Prayer with
I wander. Do we really pray? Do we really believe all this? In fact is ~~it~~ ^{it} all perseverance, or do we give up easily. Well, I prayed last month about that Lord. I don't know why you haven't done it."

Jesus commended a man who came at midnight to a friend's home for a loaf of bread. Do you remember? "Give me three loaves of bread...." "Hay! don't you know what time it is?"

Yet, the Bible says that because of ~~of~~ his constant pleading, the man finally gave him as much as he wanted.

And Jesus ask his disciples at the end of that illustration: ^{Well} "Well, the Father find such faith on the earth when he comes?"

Ask and you shall receive...seek and you shall find...know and it shall be opened to you. Do you realize that those ^{verbs} are all present tenses. All ~~habit~~ habits of life.

You say, "Well! I ask five years ago and it didn't happen." Continually, constantly, ask and you will receive.

Continually ~~and~~ constantly seek, and you will find.

Search Commissions

You see, the Father who is in control knows how much you want it and how much you don't want it.....But, oh, how ^{you} need to pray with dedication. And for all the saints. Don't leave anybody out. *and be alert to pray*

(3D) Ben Enally

But, prayer, also needs to have purpose to it. And Paul ^{gives} gave to us a wonderful purpose, here in Vs 19-20. "Pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ~~ought~~ ought to speak."

Now, for a moment think about Paul's ^{words} ~~speech~~. He said, "pray that an utterance may be given to me."...The word "utterance" is simple the Greek word "logos" meaning "word." And the way this is phrased, interesting, ^{it's} a legal phrase. Referring to receiving an opportunity to ~~to~~ speak in a court room.

Boy! did my mind start chunning when I found that out. Connect together everything that Paul said, at the time he was in prison, ..DO YOU KNOW WHAT ~~HE~~ IS ASKING THEM TO PRAY FOR HERE? He is asking them to pray that the opportunity will be given to him by the court ~~in~~ room of Ceasar, himself, to speak the Gospel of Christ. That was the only thing he was looking for there.

Christian's were worried about how he was going to get out of prison.

~~Ph~~/ Paul wasn't worried about getting out of jail. When he went to a town he didn't check out the hotels. He checked out the jails because he knew he would end up there, anyway.....

I love to read the prison ministry of Paul. It is fantastic..You think about the times he is in jail and what he is doing. And here he is in jail and he says, "Hay! I want you to pray for me that I will be able to speak the Gospel in that court room." You see, he wanted to be ready. And he wanted an opportunity to preach.

You know, I just put two and two together here. It seems to me that the Lord is saying that the reason a lot of us don't have opportunities is that we haven't been praying.....Pray that that moment might come....

Do you know why? God had shared with Him in the whole business of how he got to Rome, according to the book of Acts, had shared with him by an angel coming to him at night saying: "Don't worry about your circumstances. I want you to preach the gospel in Rome, also."

That is what was motivating Paul as he was going clear to Rome. And all the events that was happening as recorded at the end of the ^Book of Acts, as he lands in prison. He is there under one great burden. GOD WANTS ME HERE TO SHARE HIS MESSAGE. So, pray for me. So that when the opportunity comes I will do it. And pray that I will do it with boldness.

Oh, I love this word "boldness". It means "freedom of speech." That is, having the freedom to speak ~~commonly~~ ^{Calmly}. The ~~word~~ words just come out of your mouth, ~~calmly~~ calmly. It is not talking about being loud....That is not the idea at all.

So, prayer presence the opportunity and also the boldness.

Look over in Acts 4 at an illustration. The early christian were just as sacred to share their Faith as we are. In this illustration they were in trouble. Their leaders taken into prison. They were frightened. They were a new group. They didn't have much history to fall back on, or any examples to follow. And they were sacred.

In Verse 29 of Acts 4 we find this very beautiful prayer: "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Thy bond-servants may speak Thy word with all confidence, (freedom of speak, boldness) while Thou dost extend Thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Thy holy servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and theyd were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with what?....."BOLDNESS"....

Are we praying for one another? That we would speak boldly?

~~/I/Thessalonian/Chapter/3/~~

Back to Ephesians 6, please. It was not only Paul's speech, but also Paul's ø situation. Paul was in jail. Don't you ever forget it. And the Christians in these churches are worried about Him being in jail. Paul knew the seriousness of this. And so he says in Vs 20 "I am an ambassador in chains:

Now, that is a paradox. That is a conflicting statement. You cannot have an ambassador in chains. "I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

I am here, And they have me chained. But, God has me here.

Look at Philippians 1 verse 12.....(Read Vs 12-14)

You know, Paul knew that what was happening to him was going to effect the lives mf many, many people. We need to pray with purpose knowing our need of correct speaking to people the gospel of Christ. But, also, facing the situations that we are placed in. Situations that are not easy. Sometimes difficult to proclain Christ. We need to pray very much for one another.

I believe, also, we need to pray with understanding. Not just dedication and purpose. But also understanding. That believe that is the point of Vs 21 and 22. Look at it please...(Read Vs 21 and 22)

~~And~~ Let me tell you something about Prayer which I believe is very, very important, among believers. Prayer, when it comes with understanding, helps us to pray ~~for~~ more effectively and specificical for others. Paul said, "I am going to let you know. You have been praying for me. I am now going to tell you how I am doing. And I am sending Tychicus to explainn it all to you."

Have you ever been praying for somebody, and you never heard how it turned out? That happened to me the other day. I saw someone that I had been praying for and I ask him how it was coming. "Great", he said, "God answered my prayer two months ago."

You know, I felt really stupid. Praying for two months about something that was already taken care of. Good thing the Lord knows about it.

But, you know, I think we need to remember that it helps you to pray when you know the circumstances. And if you ask someone to pray for you, then help them, also, to understand how God is answering. And what the needs are. Communicate. It helps to pray more effectively.

I believe, by the way, in prayer list. You ought to have a list. It is easy to forget. Make a list of the things that God lays upon your heart. And then write down the date of answer. That is a thrill. And you can really see answered prayer. Make a list for yourself.

And by the way, have a daily time when you come to the Lord. As surely as praying in all opportunities. Make an appointment with God. Same time... Same place....

And if someone ever calls you to do something during that time, you can say, "Sorry, I have a committed appointment."

Now, if they ask you who it is with. And you say "God". They will not want to talk to you anyway. So you have solved the problem...Right?

Pray daily.....every day...same time....same place. Don't worry about the time or the length or anything else. But be faithful to it. A daily appointment with God is every, very important in the christian life.

But, you see in understanding a prayer not only makes you more effective, but it also gives you encouragement. That is why Paul says at the end of Vs 22..."that he may comfort your hearts."

Boy! let me tell you. Your heart is really ministered to when God has answered your prayer. It is fantastic.... Encouraging prayer....It is so wonderful...

And listen, one of the most wonderful things is when you share with people what God is doing in answering prayer....

It is wonderful. It will comfort your heart like nothing else. And it will encourage you to keep on praying.

One final thing. You need to pray with maturity. By that I mean we need the kind of qualities in our prayer life that Paul reveals here. ~~Look~~

Look how he ends this letter. Look what he prays for the Christians. He said, Vs 23, "Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible."

PEACE---I don't believe you can pray effectively without PEACE. It is hard to be stable in an unstable world, isn't it? Everything is just mested all around you. But the Bible says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and subplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. And the PEACE of God will keep your hearts and minds in Christ."

Prayer is important. But we need the type of prayer that is mature. That doesn't get all shock up when you hear about a situation or a tragedy or a concern or a burden. But a prayer that mature and understand the soverietyn of God. Knows that God is a jGod of infinite resources that can do far more than we are able to understand.....PEACE.....

And love.....Just look down at Philippians 1:9...Paul says "And this I pray that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment.....

What do you pray for people?

And GRACE.....Everything that God gives to us that we don't deserve is GRACE...~~No~~ Do our prayers reflect the maturity of the Scriptures? Are they dedicated? Do they have purpose to them? Is there understand there? Do you have maturity?

Well, let me tell you one thing. If you don't have this personal relationship with God, there is a prayer that you need to pray, desperately, right now....And that jprayer is the beginning of the Christian life as you trust Jesus Christ for what He has already done for you. ~~If you have never~~

If you have never come to believe in him as your Lord and Saviour, you have never come to receive his wonderful gift of everlasting life.... then there is one prayer that you need to ask above all others, "LORD! I KNOW THAT I AM A SINNER. AND I KNOW THAT I CANNOT SAVE MYSELF. BUT, I AM ASKING YOU TO SAVE ME THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. WHO DIED FOR MY SINS. WHO ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD. AND HE IS COMING BACK. LORD! I TRUST YOU, NOW, AS MY SAVIOUR AND MY LORD.

That is the first prayer that you need to pray.....

..... LET'S CLOSE IN PRAYER.....