

***“A Plea For Prayer”***  
***Romans 15:30-33***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
  - To Romans 15:
    - Where We Come To The End Of This Chapter:
      - And Even Closer To:
        - The End Of Our Study Through:
          - This Remarkable Book!
  - And - In The Last Four Verses Of This Chapter:
    - We Find A Special Plea:
      - From Paul's Own Hand:
        - To Our Own Hearts!
2. It Is A Plea For Prayer!
  - At The Beginning Of 15:30:
    - Paul Writes - “Now I Beseech You, Brethren!”
      - “Beseech” Is A Strong Word:
        - That Means He Is ***Imploring*** God's People:
          - To Do Something For Him!
    - He Only Uses This Word:
      - Three Times In The Book Of Romans:
        - And Only When:
          - It Deals With Matters:
            - Of The Utmost Importance!
    - He Used It Back In 12:1:
      - To “Beseech” & Implore Us:
        - To “Present Our Bodies As A Living Sacrifice, Holy, Acceptable Unto God!”
      - He “Beseeches” Us About This:
        - Because Our Purpose:
          - Is Important!
    - He Will Use It Again In 16:17:
      - To “Beseech” & Implore Us:
        - “Mark Them Which Cause Divisions And Offenses Contrary To The Doctrine Which He Have Learned, And Avoid Them!”
      - He “Beseeches” Us About This:
        - Because Our Purity:
          - Is Important!
    - So - He “Beseeches” Us Here In 15:30:
      - Because Our Prayers:
        - Are Important!
  - 15:30-33 - “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in [your] prayers to God for me; / That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which [I have] for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; / That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed. / Now the God of peace [be] with you all. Amen!”
    - Now - What Makes This Plea For Prayer:
      - So Special:
        - Is Because It Is The Apostle Paul:
          - Who Is Making This Request:
            - For Himself!
  - The Apostle Paul:
    - Who At Times To Us:
      - May Seem “Super-Human” - Yet:
        - Here He Proves That He Is ***Only*** Human:
          - And In Complete & Total Dependence:
            - Upon The Lord!
  - And ***He Needed Prayer!***
    - So That - After He Made All Of ***His*** Plans:

- It Would Be **God's** Plans:
- That Were Accomplished!

3. So Again - He Makes His Plea:
  - "Strive Together With Me In Your Prayers To God For Me!"
  - And Even Though:
    - He Made His Plea:
      - To The Christian's In Rome:
        - This Same Plea Echoes Down Through The Corridor Of Time:
          - To Us - Here - Today!
  - Because - Like Paul:
    - We Need Prayer! We Need Prayer:
      - Because Of Our Great Needs!
        - Sometimes We Seem To Forget:
          - Just How Dependant We Are:
            - Upon The Lord!
    - After All - As We Are Told In:
      - Acts 17:28 - It Is "In him we live, and move, and have our being!"
      - And Yet - When You Forget:
        - Your **Need** Of The Lord:
          - You Will Stop Getting:
            - On Your **knees** Before The Lord!

4. So - This Morning:
  - Listen To This "Plea For Prayer" From The Pen:
    - Of The Apostle Paul!
      - And Let It Call You:
        - And All Of Us:
          - To A Greater Sense Of Our Need:
            - For Prayer! And Pray!
  - And - In These Verses:
    - We Discover Just The Kind Of Prayer:
      - We Need!

\* First - It Is A Plea For:

**1. Fellowship In Prayer!**

- In The First Part Of 15:30 - Paul Basis His Plea For Prayer:
  - On Their Connection To:
    - Christ & Other Christians!
      - 15:30a - "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit!"
  - Now Even Though:
    - Prayer Can Sometimes Feel Like:
      - The Most Solitary Form Of Communication:
        - In Truth - It Is Always Done:
          - In Fellowship!
            - Because Of:
  - Our Common Association:
    - With Our Savior:
      - "The Lord Jesus Christ!"
        - And Paul Makes His Plea:
          - Based On Our Connection & Association With:
            - Him!
    - After All:
      - Don't We All Share The Same Need:
        - For The Lord Jesus Christ?
      - As Our Lord & Sovereign:
        - We All Need Him:
          - To Give Us Purpose:

- In Our Service!
- As Jesus & Our Savior:
  - We All Need Him:
    - To Rescue Us:
      - From Our Sin!
- As Christ - And Our Sacrifice:
  - We Need Him:
    - To Provide Us:
      - Reconciliation & Satisfaction!
- Oh How We Need The Lord!
  - And Now - Because He Has Made Himself:
    - Known To Us:
      - In These Ways!
    - We Can Pray!
      - Through Him - And Even:
        - To Him!
- Because Of Our Fellowship:
  - With Christ:
    - Through Faith In Him:
      - Now, We Can & Ought To Pray!
      - But Also Because Of:
- Our Common Affection:
  - Through "The Love Of The Spirit!"
    - This Not Just Talking About:
      - The Love That The Spirit Of God:
        - Has For Us!
      - But The Love That The Holy Spirit:
        - Instills In Us:
          - For Each Other!
  - And This Fruit Of Love:
    - That He Brings To The People Of God:
      - Is Truly A Love:
        - That Knows No Bounds!
  - Even Though There May Have Still Been:
    - Boundaries That, Humanly Speaking:
      - Were Meant To Keep Them Apart:
        - Like The Geographical & Political & Ethnic Divides!
    - Yet - Through The Love Of The Holy Spirit:
      - They Were All Family:
        - And "Brethren!"
  - And The Same Thing Is Now True For Us!
    - Because Of Their Fellowship:
      - As Christians:
        - Through Love For Each Other:
          - We Can & Ought To Pray For One Another!
  - And This Fellowship In Prayer:
    - Is The Basis Of Paul's Plea!
      - But - There's A Hint Also:
        - That This Fellowship Extends:
          - Beyond This Earth & Into Heaven Itself!
        - There Seems To Be Here:
          - A Reference To The Triune God:
            - And The Fellowship We Can Enjoy With Him:
              - Whenever We Pray!
    - In 15:30 - This Plea For Prayer Is:
      - "For The Sake Of" The Lord Jesus Christ!
      - As Well As "For The Love Of The Spirit!"
      - And "To God" - Even The Father!

- So Even Though:
    - Prayer Can Often Feel Like:
      - A Solitary Endeavor:
        - Yet - There Can Be Real Fellowship:
          - Even When You Are Alone Before God:
            - On Your Knees!
- May There Be More Fellowship:
  - In Prayer:
    - In Your Life & In Our Church!

\* But Then - Second - This Is A Plea For:

## 2. *Fervency In Prayer!*

- And This Is What We Find In The Second Part Of 15:30:
  - Where Paul Asks The Roman Christians:
    - To “Strive Together With Me In Your Prayers To God For Me!”
      - This Is A Special Plea:
        - For Fervency & Zeal:
          - In Our Prayers!
  - After All:
    - James Tells Us In James 5:16 - That:
      - It Is “The Effectual, Fervent Prayer Of A Righteous Man” That “Avaieth Much!”
        - If Fervent Prayer Is So Important:
          - What Does This Fervency Entail?
            - We See Here That:
- Fervent Prayer Will Be Resolute!
  - In The Words Of Paul:
    - A “Striving!”
      - This Word Was Often Used:
        - To Describe Athletic Contests:
          - Like A Wrestling Match Or A Gymnastics Competition!
    - And If You’ve Ever Seen Or Participated:
      - In Any Of These Kinds Events:
        - You Know Just How “Agonizing” It Can Be!
  - This Kind Of Prayer Is Pictured For Us:
    - In The Life Of The Patriarch:
      - Jacob - In Genesis 32:
        - When - “Jacob Was Left Alone; And There Wrestled A Man With Him Until The Breaking Of The Day!” And As They Were Struggling & Striving Together
          - Jacob Said - “I Will Not Let Thee Go Except Thou Bless Me!” (Genesis 32:24-26)
    - Jacob Knew That He Needed This Man’s Blessing!
      - And - If We Truly Recognized Our Own Needs:
        - It Would Keep Us On Our Knees:
          - Striving & Wrestling As We:
            - Make “Our Requests Known Unto God!” (Philippians 4:6)
  - Fervent Praying:
    - Is Resolute Praying!
      - With Diligence & Persistence:
        - As We Continue To Knock At The Gate Of Heaven!
    - Knowing The Promise Of Our Savior:
      - Matthew 7:7-8 - “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: / For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened!” - But Also:
- Fervent Prayer Will Be Regular!
  - Paul Pleas Not Just For “Prayer” - Singular:
    - But For “Prayers” - Plural!
      - For Many Prayers To God For Him!
  - But - These Regular Prayers:

- Would Not Just Be:
  - **For** Him - They Would Be:
  - **With** Him!
- Even Though Miles Of Roman Roads:
  - Separated Them From Each Other:
  - They Could Still Serve Together:
  - By Praying Together!
- So - This “Striving With” Paul:
  - Was Service With Paul!
  - What A Privilege!
  - And - He Didn’t Need Their Presence To Do This:
  - Just Their Prayers!
- **IE:** This Is Why Missionaries Come - Not Just For Financial Support - But Prayer Support!
  - When You Move From One House To Another:
  - It Helps To Have Many Hands:
    - To Do The Heavy Lifting!
  - But - When It Comes To The Service Of God:
  - It Helps To Have Many Hearts:
    - To The Heavy Lifting:
    - Through Prayer!
- John Calvin Once Wrote How - In These Verses:
  - “Paul Shows How The Godly Ought To Pray For The Brethren, That They Are To Assume Their Person, As Though They Were Placed In The Same Difficulties!”
- This Is The Kind Fervency We Need:
  - In Our Prayers!
  - And We Will:
    - When We Remember:
    - Just How Much We Need Him & Are Dependant Upon Him!
- May There Be More Fervency:
  - In Prayer:
  - In Your Life & In Our Church!

\* But Then - Third - This Is Also A Plea For:

### 3. **Focus In Prayer!**

- In 15:31-32 - The Apostle Paul Brings Some:
  - Very Special & Very Specific:
  - Prayer Requests:
    - About His Ministry!
  - 15:31-32 - "That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which [I have] for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; / That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed!"
    - Now - Even Though There Are Many Other Prayer Requests:
      - That We Can Bring To The Lord!
      - We Must Not Neglect These In Our Church!
      - Four Requests:
- First Request - For Safety In God’s Service!
  - 15:31a - “That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea!”
    - Now - As We Go Through These Requests:
      - You’ll Notice That They Are All Related To His Travel Plans:
        - Which We Looked At:
        - In 15:22-29!
  - And He Knew That:
    - Without The Lord’s Protection:
      - He Wouldn’t Be Able To Make It:
      - Even To The First Stage:
        - Of His Long Journey!
- In Fact:
  - In Acts 20 - Which Took Place:

- Right After He Wrote These Words:
  - Luke Tells Us That: “When the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia!”
- There Were Real Threats & Present Dangers:
  - That Faced Paul:
    - On Every Turn!
      - And So - He Asks Prayer For A Very Practical Matter:
        - His Own Safety!
- And We Need To Pray This Same Prayer:
  - For Ourselves & For Each Other!
    - Safety From Physical Danger:
      - In God’s Service!
        - Though It Is True That We Wrestle Not Against Flesh & Blood! That Doesn’t Mean That Flesh & Blood Doesn’t Wrestle With Us!
  - But We Also Need To Pray For Safety:
    - From Spiritual Dangers:
      - That Might Get In The Way Of:
        - Our Service For The Lord!
- Second Request - For Success In God’s Service!
  - 15:31b - “And that my service which [I have] for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints!”
    - It Seems As If Paul:
      - May Have Had Some Apprehension:
        - About Bringing The Contribution That He Described Earlier In 15:26!
      - Perhaps He Wondered:
        - Was This What:
          - They Really Needed?
        - Was This What:
          - Was Really The Best?
      - Would Pride Prevent:
        - The Jewish Christians:
          - From Receiving This Gift:
            - From The Gentile Christians:
              - They Way It Was Intended?
    - Did You Ever Have Apprehensions:
      - In Some Of The Good Things:
        - That You Believed God Placed In Your Heart:
          - To Do For Others?
            - In Giving!
            - In Witnessing!
      - I Think Its Pretty Common:
        - For Us To Question:
          - How Our Service For The Lord:
            - May Be Received By Others!
    - So - Paul Prayed For & Asked Prayer For:
      - A Positive Reception:
        - Of Their Ministry!
          - And We Need To Pray For:
            - Success In God’s Service As Well!
    - Third Request: For Satisfaction In God’s Service!
      - 15:32a - “That I may come unto you with joy!”
        - Once Again - Paul Is Thinking Through:
          - His Itinerary - And Asking The Romans:
            - To Pray For Him:
              - Every Step Of The Way!
          - From Judea - To Jerusalem:
            - And Then - “That I May Come To You!”
              - But To Come:
                - “With Joy!”

- This Joy Would Have Been:
  - The Result Of God's Answers:
    - To Their Prayers!
- This Joy Would Have Been:
  - The Result Of God's People:
    - Responding To God's Grace And Leading!
- And This Kind Of Encouragement:
  - Is Something We All Need:
    - In Our Service For The Lord!
      - And It Is Something:
        - Worth Praying For!
- We Need To Pray For Each Other:
  - That We Might Be Truly:
    - "Happy In The Service Of The King!"
- Fourth Request: For Surrender In God's Service!
  - 15:32b - "By The Will Of God!"
    - This May Not Be A Specific Request:
      - As Its Connected With The One Before It!
        - But - For Us - It Should Be!
  - After All - The Will Of God:
    - Is To Be Paramount:
      - In All Of Our Pursuits!
      - In All Of Our Plans! And Especially:
      - In All Of Our Prayers!
  - This Is What Paul Desired:
    - Back In 1:10 - "Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you!"
  - This Is How Paul Prepared:
    - In 1 Corinthians 4:19 - "But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will!"
  - And This Is How James Instructs Us To Live:
    - In James 4:15 - "For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that!"
  - And Of Course - Jesus Tells Us:
    - This Is How We Ought To Pray To Our Heavenly Father!
      - "Thy Will Be Done!"
  - William Hendrickson:
    - "Paul Submits Himself, With Body And Soul, For Life, Death, And Eternity, To The Wise And Sovereign Will Of God!"
      - And We Must Do This Too!
  - But - How Did God:
    - Eventually Answer Paul's Prayers:
      - To Get To Rome?
        - Certainly Not:
          - As Paul Had Planned It!
      - But - God's Way Turned Out To Be:
        - As It Always Does:
          - The Best Way!
- Fifth Request: For Strength In God's Service!
  - 15:32c - "And may with you be refreshed!"
    - Refreshment In All They Ways:
      - He Would Have Needed:
        - After Such A Long & Arduous Journey!
  - Physical Refreshment:
    - Through Their Physical & Material:
      - Provision!
  - Emotional Refreshment:
    - From Having All Of Their:
      - Hopes & Longings & Prayers:
        - Finally Answered!

- Spiritual Refreshment:
  - Through Fellowship & Worship:
    - Together!
- But - All This Refreshment:
  - Would Be In Preparation For:
    - Further Service:
      - To The Lost In Spain!
- And We Need To Pray This Prayer:
  - For Each Other As Well!
- This Was Paul's Prayer!
  - And He Invited The Roman Christians:
    - To Pray Along With Him:
      - In These Ways!
        - And So Should We!
- Is There This Kind Of Focus:
  - In Your Prayers?

\* And Then - As We Come To The Last Verse In The Chapter - We See Paul's Plea For:

**4. Faith In Prayer!**

- 15:33 Is A Fairly Common Benediction:
  - Used By The Apostle Paul:
    - In Most, If Not All, Of His Letters!
      - But It Shows That:
        - He Believed:
          - God Could Do What He Asked Him To Do!
  - And So - This Is Paul's Prayer:
    - For The Church In Rome!
      - "Now the God of peace [be] with you all. Amen!"
        - Paul Could Pray This Prayer:
          - Because He Believed:
- In The Peace Of God!
  - He Knew That:
    - In This World Of Conflict:
      - The People Of God:
        - Need His Peace!
          - And This Is What God Is Known For!
  - Back In 15:13 - He Prayed:
    - "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost!"
      - And The Peace That God Can Give:
        - Is A Peace "Which Passeth All Understanding!" (Philippians 4:7)
  - To We Believe:
    - That God Is The Author & Source:
      - Of The Peace & Provision:
        - We Need For This Life & Beyond?
          - He Also Believed:
- In The Presence Of God!
  - He Knew That:
    - God Could Make His Presence:
      - Known To Them:
        - In A Real & Vital Way!
  - And His Peace & Presence:
    - Was Available To All Of His People!
      - Jews & Gentiles!
      - Weak & Strong!
      - Rich & Poor!
      - Bond & Free!
      - Because Of Their Common Salvation:



- And Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ!

**Conclusion:**

1. May We Learn To Have:
  - These Same Vital Things:
    - In Our Prayers!
      - Real Fellowship In Prayer!
      - Greater Fervency In Prayer!
      - More Focus In Prayer! And:
      - Increasing Faith In Prayer!
2. But - None Of This Can Come:
  - If We Are Not:
    - Faithful In Prayer!
      - So - Listen To This:
        - “Plea For Prayer” From:
          - The Apostle Paul!
          - And Pray!

***Grace Baptist Church  
Stephen Elmer, Pastor  
4245 North 200 West  
Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
317-326-2362  
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace  
www.growatgrace.org  
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***