

## BIBLICAL PRAYER (24)

### **Type #2** - There is the prayer of entreaty. **I Timothy 2:1a**

The specific Greek word translated “entreaty” (δεησις) is one that refers to a prayer which is made to God that specifically “gives prominence to a sense of need” (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 99). The idea here is making a supplication to God on the basis of something that is needed. Gerhard Kittel says that the original significance of this word is to lack something or be in need of something and therefore you make some specific petition (*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vol. 2, pp. 40-41).

It is interesting that if we track the use of this word through the N.T., it seems that the need may be relative to the person praying and not necessarily a need for everyone. It also seems that in several instances the word often relates to a need in ministry, but not always:

- 1) **Luke 1:13** - It is clear from this text that Zacharias was praying that his wife would be able to have a baby. In this Jewish culture, this was considered a real need.
- 2) **II Corinthians 1:11** - The people of Corinth believed that praying for Paul’s literal survival was a real need and Paul commended them for it.
- 3) **II Corinthians 9:14** - Paul believed that as the Corinthians gave money to the work of God that enabled the ministry to go forward that various believers would sense the need to pray for the Corinthians and thank God for them and pour out His grace on them.
- 4) **Philippians 1:19** - Paul believed that prayer was needed for him and his ministry if he were to be able to continue to courageously and boldly speak the Word of God and not be put to shame in anything.
- 5) **I Timothy 2:1** - Paul teaches that we have a need to pray for people. People need our prayers.
- 6) **II Timothy 1:3** - Paul believed that his prayer for Timothy was needed and necessary night and day.
- 7) **James 5:16b** - James’ point was when a man right with God senses a need to pray about something, it is very effective and can accomplish much.
- 8) **I Peter 3:12** - God carefully monitors the prayers of one right with Him when they are made on the basis of some need and He listens and will answer.

When a faithful child of God senses some need and prays on the basis of the need, he/she may be certain that God is carefully listening and observing.