

Tonight, I would like to speak to you about being helped in prayer: How often do you ask someone else to pray for you? Or may I should ask, how often have you asked a fellow brother or sister in Christ to pray for you?

As a church, we are always asking each other to pray for those who are suffering from sicknesses or physical ailments; oftentimes most of us don't even know the person(s) for whom we are praying; that's ok; we should pray for them; but I would encourage you to ALWAYS FIRST be interested in their souls, and to pray for the salvation of their souls, because THAT is their greatest need!

So, YES, pray for them, but remember that the GREATEST NEED for anyone who is lost is NOT the healing of their physical illnesses and ailments, their greatest need is the forgiveness of their sins and the healing of their soul. But AGAIN, YES, we ought to pray for anyone who asks us, even for those few for whom we find it very difficult to pray: *1 Timothy 2:1-6, Matthew 5:43-48*

But now back to my original question: How often have you asked someone to pray for you personally? Perhaps for something in your life that you're struggling with:

It might be a personal struggle or weakness with a besetting sin, something that you know is hurting you in your Christian life, but you can't seem to shake it.

Or you're wrestling in your mind with thoughts of unbelief and doubt; or you're struggling in your personal devotions in the Word or in your prayer life, and you recognize that it's not getting any better.

And so, why not just pray about it alone? I think we all ought to do that; but I also believe one of the great benefits of the church body is our mutual dependence and care for one another. As a church, we don't just gather together on Sunday mornings and then forget about each other for the rest of the week; we should be fellow-helpers of each other's faith, and part of that should be ASKING our brethren for HELP IN PRAYER in times when we are struggling.

We find examples in the scriptures of the saints of old, who, in certain times and seasons in their lives NEEDED ASSISTANCE and HELP IN PRAYER.

Daniel 2:14-18, 23, Esther 4:16, Romans 15:30-33, 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, Colossians 4:2-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:25: "Brethren, pray for us"

"PLEASE PRAY FOR ME" or "PLEASE PRAY WITH ME" about this situation or this struggle, or this person, this thing that I am struggling with!

Please hold me up to God in prayer! I love the story of Moses, the man of God, who needed help in holding up his arms when Israel went to battle with the Amalek; if Aaron and Hur were not there to help Moses to hold up his arms, Amalek would have prevailed against Israel. *Exodus 17:8-12*

MH: "We do not find that Joshua's hands were heavy in fighting, but Moses' hands were heavy in praying; the more spiritual the work, the more apt we are to fail in it"

Moses' spirit was willing, but his flesh was weak; but what a picture of fellow saints holding each other up in prayer; what a picture of how we ought to be there for each other.

Beloved, learn from these passages that there is no such thing as a Christian LONER/HERMIT; there will be times in your Christian life when you NEED assistance and help in prayer from a faithful brother or sister in Christ; A FELLOW HELPER!

Acts 2:44: "And all that believed were TOGETHER, and had all things common"

When they met, they communicated and fellowshiped together, they shared their blessings and they confessed their faults and weaknesses to each other; and then they prayed for each other.

I have no doubt that they also asked each other for personal prayer, and for things in their lives in which, they craved help, and another voice on their behalf to the throne of grace.

James 5:16: “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another”

- Think about why James wrote this to us: What would be one of the reasons for me to confess my faults or my weaknesses to you?

William Gurnall: We are bid to confess our faults one to another, and to what end, but to have the benefit of mutual prayers, and that we might have our brother or sister in Christ to help us in prayer concerning our faults and weaknesses. But if we desire not others to carry our name to the throne of grace in prayer, we are guilty of quenching the Spirit of prayer. How?

By depriving ourselves of the assistance and help that we receive from both our prayers, and from the prayers of our brethren also.

Beloved, this type of communion and trust for help should exist between each of us as brother and sisters in Christ.

But beware of your own pride, which will prevent you from humbling yourself before your brother or sister in Christ and from asking them to help you in prayer.

You might be thinking, I don't need any one's help! What's going on in my life is none of anyone's business; but all the while you are sinking deeper into distress and drifting further away God rather than humbling yourself and asking for prayer.

But to seek a brother or sister's help in prayer to God is a mark of godly humility, and a necessary condescension and meekness that should exist between brethren.

Ephesians 5:21: “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God”

1 Peter 5:5: “Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble”

Even the Lord Jesus, in a time when He agonized in prayer, called for Peter, James, and John to, in His Words: “Watch with me”

Matthew 26:36-44