

## BIBLICAL PRAYER (27)

It is important to understand that prayer for others not only affects the ones being prayed for, but it will affect the one praying. One prayer warrior observed that at times when he seemed to be dry and depressed and tired in his prayer life, when he began to pray for others revival took place in his own soul (*Ibid.*, p. 41).

It is good for us to remember that we are actually able to help others by praying for them. Since God the Son and God the Spirit help us by praying for us, we may help others by praying for them.

Prayer for others has always been a significant mark of spirituality and a significant way to blossom spirituality. In fact, praying for others is one very excellent way to maintain a constant, other-oriented philosophy of life.

**Type #5** - There is the prayer of thanksgiving . **I Timothy 2:1d**

This again is a different Greek word which is used to describe prayer. The word (ευχαριστια) is a word that means to expresses gratitude and thanks to God (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, pp. 190-191).

There are many illustrations of this type of prayer in Scriptures and many exhortations to pray this type of prayer. A prayer of thanksgiving is usually closely connected to praise because it is thanking and praising God for things He has done.

This was actually a part of the O.T. priestly responsibility (**I Chronicles 23:27-30**). The priests were to stand every morning and every evening to thank God. It was the responsibility of all Israel and all people to give thanks to God (**Psalms 26:7; 95:2; 100:4**). Paul believed it was the responsibility of every N.T. believer also to give thanks to God and, in fact, said that this was God's will (**I Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:20**). Clearly, the prayer of thanksgiving is a prayer that is demanded in the Bible.

As we move toward the coming of Jesus Christ at the end of the Church Age, Paul predicts that a thankful attitude, which would include prayers of thanksgiving, will become very scarce. People will become unthankful and ungrateful (**II Timothy 3:2**). The Apostle Paul, however, makes it very clear that prayers of thanksgiving were to be made for all things and at all times.

- 1) **Ephesians 5:18-20** - Now contextually giving thanks to God is closely associated with being filled with the Spirit . When one is truly filled with the Spirit, he/she will pray to God thanking Him for many things.
- 2) **I Thessalonians 5:18** - Thanking God in prayer is God's will for every believer.

Certainly there are a couple of things for which we can continually thank God: for God's goodness and for God's grace (**i.e. Psalm 118:1**).