

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is much more than fulfilling an obligation to “keep in touch” with the Master of the universe, and if that is the attitude of the person in prayer, then that prayer will only reach as far as the ceiling. Prayer is so important that the Son of God prayed always. We are blessed by the framework with which all prayer is to be prayed found in Matt. 6:9-13. Here Jesus gives His disciples (that includes us) the way to approach the throne of grace and for what we should pray. Even though He already knows who we know and their needs and although He already knows who we are and what we stand in need of, we don't have because we don't ask (James 4:2). How often should we pray? 1Thes. 5:17 says we should pray without ceasing. Where should we pray? It stands to reason that if we are to pray without ceasing, we will have pray everywhere (I Tim 2:8). Who should we pray for? Jesus said we should pray for our enemies in addition to the ones we love. The Holy Spirit urged Paul to let us know we should pray for every man and those in authority over us (I Tim. 2:1-2). We can be assured if we pray in these ways, God will not only hear our prayers, He will answer our prayers as well!

Colossians 1:3-8 (NKJV)

³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷ as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Paul is in chains in Rome, writing to a fellowship of people and thanking God and the Lord Jesus Christ for them and he has never even met them. Most Christians in this country are free to come and go as they please and yet often omit to pray for those they fellowship with weekly or for a family they live with daily let alone consider another portion of “God's Vineyard”. We never fail to go to the Lord with our own set of circumstances and situations that we believe are of the most critical nature. I learned from a sister in the church how important it is to pray for others despite the problems we are having.

Paul had a spiritual unction to pray for the church in Colossae in a particular way, and not just because they “said” they believed in Jesus Christ, he prayed for them because he heard, from a very reliable source, that they had faith in Christ. They didn't have faith in faith. They didn't have faith in their own abilities, gifts, and callings. Their faith wasn't built on the Pastor. They had faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The proof of that faith was the love shown to the saints of their fellowship. This love wasn't “lip service”. These folks showed their love one to another.

If we have a hope of future blessing based upon what someone else has done for us to make it sure, our walk will show it. We will not behave as those that have no hope. We will not eat and drink as though tomorrow we die (I Cor. 15:32). Paul knew these people had hope and he knew on whom their hope was based, because he knew what they heard to build up that hope.

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and His righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.” Amen!

The word they received is the same word the rest of the world received as evidenced by the fruit. If there is no fruit, the seed did take root in good ground. No seed can take root without someone sowing the seed (Matt. 13:1-23, Rom. 10:14-15).