

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYING

1 Samuel 30

WE NEED GOD

1 Samuel 30:6

"David and his men wept until they could no longer weep. David was greatly distraught. His men were so distraught over what had happened to their families, that they were talking about stoning him. But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God" /and he said to the priest, 'Let's ask God what to do.'"

We never know what life will throw at us next. Pets die and so do mothers and fathers. The doctor's report can be bad. The one we love marries someone else. Our wife leaves us. Our husband leaves us, etc.

When bad things happen, we instinctively turn to God. Often, we turn in *bewilderment* and confusion about why God let it happen to us. Jesus did when on the cross He said, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27).

David here was at the lowest point in his life. He and his men returned home and found their city burned to the ground and all their families taken captive. On top of that, his fellow soldiers were talking about killing him. David found peace in "the Lord his God". God gave him permission to go; led him to a man who knew where the captives were and gave him the power to rescue the people.

WE NEED GOD TO HELP OTHERS

Luke 22:31

(Jesus said)" Simon, Satan has asked permission to grind you up like wheat. But I have prayed that your faith will not fail and that when you repent and come back you will be able to strengthen your brothers."

We need prayer to help ourselves and to help others, especially the people we love. One incentive for us to pray is that Jesus, even though he was God's son, was a man who prayed. He knew Peter was going to break his own heart that

night by denying knowing him, and told him he would pray for Him. He told him he would return to service one day. People laugh at the idea of Satan but there is an evil spirit being at work in your mind and in the minds of everyone in your family. He tempts young people to ruin their life on drugs and husbands and wives to commit adultery.

In Ephesians 6 Paul gives us the pieces of armor we must wear to overcome Satan's temptations. Prayer is not one of those pieces; but Paul adds "Never stop praying. Pray for me." Even Paul knew he needed the prayers of others.

David Jeremiah said trying to defeat Satan without prayer is like parachuting into an Islamic terrorist camp wrapped in the American flag, singing God Bless America.

After I finished this book and had it ready for the printer, my daughter came in excited over her new job that allowed her to be off on Friday afternoons. She said, "Daddy, I had prayed for this for months and I knew you had prayed to. Thank you."

WE NEED PRAYER

"You do not have because you do not ask God." (James 4)

David's people were rescued not because he was a child of God, but because he was a praying child of God. To have God walk with us and help us we must pray. James tells Christians (1:1-2), "You do not have because you do not ask." (James 4) and this applies to His help and blessings. God's love for us is unconditional but His help and blessings are not. God will help and bless us many times because we are His children, but not as much as He wants to or as much as we need for Him to unless we pray.

"God will not do some things unless we work and will not do some things unless we pray."

David was living in the land of Israel's enemies the Philistines when this happened. When Saul was about to capture him and his people, he decided to leave and live among them. They welcomed him and even gave him a city. David