

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER!

A couple of months ago as I was standing at the back of the auditorium after services ended, I was talking to our members before they left to go home. I try to say something to everyone even if it is hello or wave before they leave. However, on this particular occasion I saw one of our members had a very heavy heart. I walked over and we began to talk. There was hardship going on in their life. We proceeded to go into my office and talk a little more privately. After hearing some the things, I stopped them and immediately we went to God in prayer together. It was the thing that I thought we could do in helping at the immediate moment.

The phrase we say “I am praying for you” is said often. I was talking to someone recently and here was his thought. “I am afraid we say I will pray for you too many times. We say it on social media to people that are going through struggles, we say to people we run into and are talking about life, we say it to brethren at various times. But do we actually pray for one another? Or do we say it to be able to move along?” It is sad to think about prayer not being utilized enough and it is just words to say.

In **I Thessalonians 5:16-18** we are instructed to pray without ceasing. We are to take advantage of prayer. I hate to say it in this way but at the bare minimum we should at least be praying for one another. It is the will of God as Christians to pray for one another.

Consider **Colossians 3:17** “Whatever you do in word or in deed do all in the name of the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” I want to emphasize the word and in deed here. We are to practice what we preach. All that we say and do needs to be done in the name of the Lord. If I am telling someone that I will pray, then we need to go to God in prayer and praying for individuals. It is a nice gesture to say that we will pray. But the follow through on it truly shows our desire to God to have Him help us and others!

When we pray for one another, it does not have to be done in public way. (**Matthew 6:5-7**) What I am getting in this is we do not have to draw attention to receive the praise and exaltation from others. When I mentioned the situation earlier it is not to get the approval from my brethren that I am praying, rather it is to give honor, glory, and faith to God! God rewards us and listens to our prayers! (**Matthew 7:7-8**) the answer may not be always what we want or when we want it, but God listens to our prayers as we pray for one another.

When approaching one another consider “How can I pray for you today?” as a response. It offers consideration for one another. Look at this in **James 5:13-16**. Prayer is mentioned in each of these verses. Personally, if you are suffering, then pray. Anyone sick? Call for one another (in this case the elders) and let them pray for you! Are you dealing with sin? Then confess and let others pray for you! Pray to God that these sins may be forgiven! Do you need encouragement? Then pray and exhort one another daily (**Hebrews 3:13**).

Pray for all people everywhere (**I Timothy 2:1-8**)

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