**Reflections on Prayer: V**

**How they prayed**

**Last week: Nehemiah – Intentional and Immediate prayer**

* **Nehemiah 1:5-11 – Prayer according to the Word**
* **Nehemiah 2:4; 4:4-5, 9; 5:19: 6:9, 14; 13:22, 29, 31 – Popcorn prayers or prayers to suit the occasion**

**This Week: Observations from Daniel**

* **Known for Prayer**
* **So well-known for devotion to prayer, it was the one area they knew they could attack – Daniel 6:10-11**
* **Gave thanks and made requests**
* **Prayed according to Scripture toward Jerusalem – 2 Chronicles 6:20-21**
* **Confessed the sin of his people – Daniel 9:3-19**
* **Prayed according to God’s character and for His glory – Daniel 9:4, 19**
* **Prayer results in revelation and understanding of God’s will in the future**

**Prayer in Acts: Praying in suffering**

* **Acts 2:42 – Regular practice of the church**
* **Acts 4:31 – Boldness, not safety**
* **Acts 12:5-19 - For Peter’s deliverance**
* **Acts 16:25 - Praying and singing hymns**

**Prayer in Paul: Joy, thanksgiving, working hard, and thinking of others**

**Not surprisingly, many involve prayers for the local churches and often emphasizes thanks to God.**

* **Romans 12:12 = Persist in prayer, esp. in stress; habitually persevere as a fundamental practice of our spiritual lives 1 Thessalonians 5:17**
* **Romans 15:30 = Labor in prayer; Lit. “to join someone in a common effort, fight/contend along with”; This is mutual work. Prayer is not passive activity. It is work. Similar idea to Colossians 4:12**

**2**

* **Paul asks prayer about four things in Romans 15:30-32:**

1. **That he might be delivered from unbelieving Jews in Judea**
2. **That his ministry to Jerusalem might be acceptable to the saints; maximum impact building up the saints**
3. **That he might come to them with joy. His life is in God’s hands and he can only come with joy if his ministry to the saints is effective**
4. **That his visit to them might be one of refreshment, encouragement, and edification (1:11-12)**

* **Colossians 4:12 – Epaphroditus: “laboring” in prayer**

**Used of: 1) An athletic contest, lit. and fig. to engage in a contest 2) Gener. To fight, struggle A. used lit. with weapons B. fig. of any struggle, of wrestling in prayer. The prayer was for their walk and growth in Christ.**

* **Philippians 1:3f - 1) Thankful for their partnership 2) Constant prayer 3) Prays for their growth**
* **Ephesians 1:15 - 1) Thankful for them 2) Prays for their growth to see all they have in Christ (in the heavenlies)**
* **Ephesians 3:14-19 - Wants God to strengthen their inner person that Christ would abide in them and they would know how much He loves them**
* **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 - Thankful for their growth in Christ**
* **1 Thessalonians 3:10 - (Ch. 1-3) Praying often to see them and to help them grow**
* **2 Timothy 1:3-4 – Prayed for him day and night and wanted to see him**

**Prayer in James in chapter 5: Delivering a life from the ruin of sin**

* **Pray when suffering – James 5:13**
* **For one another when sick (elders) James 5:14-16**
* **A righteous person (practical) impacting a nation (16b-18) and an individual (19-20); We can impact both a nation and an individual’s walk with God!**
* **Sometimes, the individual life seems more amazing since we know the details**
* **Prayer impacts the lives of others**

**3**

**Prayer in 1 Peter: Impacting God’s response to your prayers**

* **Ch. 3 – poor treatment of spouse impacts prayers negatively**
* **(Broader) Godly behavior results in God responding to prayer, the opposite is also true**
* **1 Peter 4:6 Be watchful in prayer; Stand guard!**

**Prayers in Revelation: “Wait” doesn’t mean “No”**

* **Revelation 5:8 - When the seals are open and the Seal Judgments begin, it appears the judgments come in response to the prayers (Lk. 18:6-8; Rev. 6:9-10).**
* **The prayers are remembered as a sweet aroma (incense) before God (like OT priests burning it before God), but only answered when the time is right; storing them up**
* **It appears that the elders bring the prayers before God as representatives of humanity**
* **The Seventh Seal involves the prayers of the saints that led directly to the Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8:1-6).**

**James 5:16b-20: God can use your prayers to do great things!**

**What three things/areas would you like to pray for?**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**