

## **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**

- 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

### 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.