Praying for One Another—Week 2

Truth

“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Eph 6:18).

“How important is prayer? Paul lets us know by repeating the word ‘all’ four times in this passage, as if to say that there is nothing that cannot be prayed for and that there is no situation in which prayer is unavailing. He says that we should pray ‘on all occasions,’ ‘with all kinds of prayer and requests,’ ‘always,’ and finally, ‘for all the saints.’ It is a helpful and comprehensive outline” (James Boice, on Ephesians 6:18).

List examples for each of these outline points:

At All Times (all occasions):

With All Prayer and Supplication (all kinds of prayer):

All Perseverance:

For All the Saints:

1 Samuel 12:23  “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.”

John Calvin (1509-1564) is widely attributed as the source of this statement on prayer.

“Our prayer must not be self-centered. It must arise not only because we feel our own need as a burden we must lay upon God, but also because we are so bound up in love for our fellow men that we feel their need as acutely as our own. To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them.”

Paul: A man of prayer

“Paul’s praying and his commands and the urgency with which he pressed upon the church to pray, is the most convincing proof of the absolute necessity of prayer…To pray everywhere, to pray in everything, to continue instant in prayer, and to pray without ceasing, thus Paul spoke as commentator on the divine uses and the nature of prayer” (E.M. Bounds, 545-546).
“How Paul did pray for those early Christians! They were in his mind and on his heart, and he was continually at it” (p. 559).

Review the following passages that record Paul’s prayers for the church. What do you notice about his prayers?

1 Corinthians 1:4-9
Ephesians 1:15-23
Ephesians 3:14-21
Philippians 1:3-11
Colossians 1:3-14
2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Approaching the Throne of Grace

Hebrews 4:14-16
“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

We have this incredible privilege to enter the holy of holies (throne of grace) at any time from anywhere. This privilege is made accessible to us because Jesus is our great high priest, who through His death and resurrection has opened the way for us. We have confidence to approach the throne of grace, not in ourselves, but in the blood of Christ alone, by a new and living way (Heb 10:19-20). Calvin states, “All we do is polluted; we cannot go into the presence of God alone; we must either go in the hand of a Mediator or our hearts and our hopes will fail us. He is our Advocate.”

“It was before the earthly mercy-seat that the work of propitiation was completed in token on the day of atonement and the grace of God extended to His people; the presence of the Christians’ high priest on the heavenly throne of grace bespeaks a work of propitiation completed not in token but in fact, and the constant availability of divine aid in all their need. Thanks to Him, the throne of God is a mercy-seat to which they have free access and from which they may receive all the grace and power required for timely help in the hour of trial and crisis” F.F. Bruce, 86-87).

Therefore, we dare not be prayer-less for others who are in desperate need of God’s grace and help.
Equipping

Why is intercession the most powerful and practical way in which to express our love for one another (see Calvin’s quote)?

A Praying Life: Keeping Track of the Story-Using Prayer Cards
By Paul Miller (pp. 225-226)

Here are the overall guidelines I [Paul] use when creating a prayer card.

1. The card functions like a prayer snapshot of a person’s life, so I use short phrases to describe what I want.
2. When praying, I usually don’t linger over a card for more than a few seconds. I just pick out one or two key areas and pray for them.
3. I put the Word to work by writing a Scripture verse on the card that expresses my desire for that particular person or situation.
4. The card doesn’t change much. Maybe once a year I will add another line. There are just the ongoing areas in a person’s life that I am praying for.
5. I usually don’t write down answers. They are obvious to me since I see the card almost every day.
6. I will sometimes date a prayer request by putting the month/year as in 11/17.

Building a sample deck (A Praying Life, p. 232)
- Family cards for each person
- People-in-suffering cards (1-3)
- Friend card (1)
- Non-Christian card (1)
- Church leadership card (1)
- Small-group card (1)
- Missionary, ministries card (1)
- Work cards (3)
- Co-workers card (1)
- Repentance cards (3-5)
- Hope or big-dream cards (3-5)
Tracking God’s Story in Others: Using Prayer Cards (Paul Miller, A Praying Life)

Building A Sample Deck: What are different categories of people in your life that you could include in your deck of prayer cards?

Items to include on your prayer cards:

- Scripture
- Specific prayer needs
- Important areas of growth/mature
Accountability

Review your action points from the last lesson. What action points will you commit to in order to strengthen your prayer life in the next month?
Mission

V7PC Ministry Plan: Make Disciples
Strategy and Tactics

Note: A disciple is a follower of Christ. Therefore, to make disciples means to reach the lost and, by the Spirit’s enablement, lead them from unbelief to belief.

1. Equip God’s people to share the gospel in word and deed where they live, work, and play.

2. Proclaim the gospel to our community in both word and deed.

3. Create opportunities for our people to invest in and invite un-churched people to places where they can be exposed to God’s Word and God’s people.

The *Invest & Invite* training at V7PC incorporates the diagram below. It shows that ‘prayer’ is at the heart of reaching out and proclaiming the gospel where we live, work and play.

How can viewing those you are praying for as your VIPs (Very Important People) instead of non-Christians or ‘us’ vs. ‘them’ change how you pray for them?
Why is prayer the foundation of evangelism?

Who are the three people (non-church, non-believers) you are praying for? Complete a ‘card’ below for each one. Include Scripture, prayer needs, and plans for connecting with them.

Name: __________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________

Name: __________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________

Name: __________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
Supplication

Share your prayer requests with one another. Space is provided below to write them down. Use this to help remind you what to pray for each other during the week. In addition there are a few questions to help you share requests.

Write out an index card for those in your group to pray for daily. Keep it up to date.

What are your prayer requests regarding the truth this week?

In light of the discussion this week what do you need to pray for?

What are your prayer requests regarding any situations in your life this week?

Prayer requests from others in the group this week