

**“Prayer that Joins, Fights, and Conquers”**

**Romans 15:30-33**

**Oct. 30, 2022**

**I. Our Prayer is Participation**

- A. By asking the Romans to pray for him, Paul was asking that they join him in his work – as we do when we pray for others today.
- B. We are also called to *identify* with the needs of others when we pray.

*Hebrews 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.*

**II. Our Prayer is Battle**

- A. The Greek word Paul used for “strive” in v. 30 is a combative term.
- B. In prayer we wage war against the forces of darkness and our own sinful flesh.

**III. Our Prayer is Heard and Answered**

- A. Though Paul’s prayers were not answered as he imagined they would be (Acts 21-28), they were answered far better.

*Philippians 1:12–14 - <sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear*

- B. The Lord *always* hears (Ps. 4:3; Mic 7:7) and answers our prayers today.

*Matthew 6:6 - But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*

- 1. Though not always in the way we hoped or asked for...
- 2. But always far better...

## Martin Luther on Prayer

*"I've got so much work to do today, I'd better spend two hours in prayer instead of one."*

*"If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer."*

*"Christians fight best on their knees. Whatever good may be done is done and brought about by prayer."*

*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."*

*"It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business in the morning and the last in the evening. Guard yourself against such false and deceitful thoughts that keep whispering, 'Wait a while. In an hour or so I will pray. I must first finish this or that.' Thinking such thoughts, we get away from prayer into other things that will hold us and involve us till the prayer of the day comes to naught."*

*"Look to it that you do not try to do all of it, do not try to do too much, lest your spirit grow weary. Besides, a good prayer mustn't be too long. Do not draw it out. Prayer ought to be frequent and fervent."*

*(Spurgeon on Luther) "What supplications they were! Those who heard them tell us of his tears, his wrestlings, his holy arguments. He would go into his closet heavy at heart, and remain there an hour or two, and then come forth singing, 'I have conquered, I have conquered.'"*

*"Let everyone know most assuredly and not doubt that God does not send him distress to destroy him....He wants to drive him to pray, to implore, to fight, to exercise his faith, to learn another aspect of God's person than before, to accustom himself to do battle even with the devil and with sin, and by the grace of God to be victorious. Without this experience we could never learn the meaning of faith, the Word, Spirit, grace, sin, death, or the devil."*

*"God wants us to pray, and he wants to hear our prayers-not because we are worthy, but because he is merciful."*

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