

Battle Prayers!

Part 2



Paul's Prayer

OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

6-08-08



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.* (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! *But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;” Romans 15:30 KJB

The apostle Paul said this about 2000 years ago. Paul was about to take some much needed supplies to “the poor saints” in Jerusalem. Other believers from other cities & places wanted to send some things to these poor people in Jerusalem. (It’s so important that we help others when the Lord gives us the opportunity to do so.) They gave all these supplies to Paul so that he could deliver them while he was on his way to Spain & Rome. The apostle Paul did lots of



TRAVELING

from one place to another to teach people about Jesus Christ. And so this time, Paul was bringing these important supplies along with him as he traveled to Rome & Spain. Though for this trip,



his final destination was Spain, Paul was very excited about going to Rome. He had taught many people in Rome about Jesus. He had many friends there whom he longed to visit again. So he wrote them a long letter not only to teach them many more things about the Lord, but also to tell them that he would soon be coming to visit them. And in that letter he asked the Roman believers to strive

together with him in *their* prayers to God for him. Do you know what the word STRIVE means? It means to:

TRY HARD: to try hard to achieve or get something.

APPOSE: to fight in opposition to something.

COMPLETE: to compete resolutely against somebody or something.”

The word STRIVE means that in order to get something done, we are going to have to try really hard - struggle - be determined - keep trying no matter how hard it gets.



WHY would the apostle Paul ask the believers to STRIVE when they prayed? Why must we TRY HARD when we pray? What are we OPPOSING when we pray? What are we COMPETEING AGAINST when we pray?

Those are the questions we will be answering in today's lesson. We will answer them by looking at the prayer that Paul asked his friends to pray. And over the next few weeks, we will look at the prayers of other people from the bible who were God's people. Their prayers & the situations concerning their prayer will also help us answer these questions.

The 2 MAIN POINTS that we will learn by looking at all these prayers is that

1. There is a SPIRITUAL BATTLE going on in in this universe.

2. Prayer is part of this SPIRITUAL BATTLE.
Prayer is part of this battle, not only because our prayers can show that we are on God's side, but prayer is also a BATTLE TOO!
We must STRIVE when we pray - try hard, oppose something, compete against something!
So let's see our 1st example of
BATTLE PRAYERS!

PAUL'S PRAYER

Let's read what Paul said he would pray for & what he told his friends in Rome to pray for him too concerning this trip he was taking to Jerusalem.
Here is what Paul wrote in his letter to His friends in Rome:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me:



That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I *have* for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

Now the God of peace *be* with you all.

Amen."

Romans 15:30-31 KJB

Well, we already know that Paul said that he

wanted his friends in Rome to STRIVE. We saw that STRIVING is something we do when there is something or someone who is trying to STOP us from getting something done. It takes



WORK

to pray! We need to ask God to help us LEARN what we should be praying for ourselves & others! And then we need to KEEP ON PRAYING! All that takes TIME & ENERGY!

It takes WORK to pray! Remember what Jesus said in Luke 18:1 "that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"

Paul knew that prayer was REALLY IMPORTANT because of the battle between God & Satan. Paul knew that Satan LOVES to keep God's people AWAY from studying God's Word to learn WHAT to pray for. Paul knew that Satan LOVES to keep God's people AWAY from prayer time with God! That's why Paul told his friends to STRIVE -TO WORK HARD AT PRAYING to resist Satan!

What was the 1st thing that Paul said he & his friends in Rome should pray for him?

"That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea;"

Paul said that they should pray that he be de-
livered from a certain group of people. First we

need to know what that word DELIVERED means.



The word DELIVERED has lots of meanings.

(By the way, using your dictionary can help you become a better reader. The dictionary can help you learn how to pronounce words as well as improve your knowledge of word meanings which will improve your vocabulary & reading comprehension. So if you want to improve your reading ability, use your dictionary. Most important of all, using a dictionary will help you read your KING JAMES BIBLE too!) Now back to the meaning of DELIVERED!

Because of the sentence in which we find that word “delivered” & the way Paul used it (That’s called “the CONTEXT” in which we find the word.), here is the MEANING of DELIVERED in Paul’s statement:

DELIVERED: to be freed or saved from captivity, hardship, or evil.

Paul’s 1st request to God was that he be “delivered”, freed or saved, from something. That’s what he said he & his friends should ask God for him. What or WHO was it that Paul wanted to be “delivered” - freed - saved from? Let’s READ ON to find out! The next few words after the word “delivered” tell us EXACTLY from whom Paul wanted to “be delivered.”

“from them that do not believe in Judaea;”

Remember, the word DELIVERED means to be freed from or saved from “hardship or evil.” And from WHAT HARDSHIP OR EVIL did Paul pray to

be delivered?

“from them that do not believe in Judaea:”

Who were these people who DID NOT BELIEVE?
What or who didn't they believe in? Why were they
evil? Why would Paul need to “be saved”
from them? The people who DID NOT
BELIEVE were the Jewish PHARISEES.
These were very RELIGIOUS people who
did NOT believe in Jesus! They
PRAYED a lot! They FASTED a lot!
They READ the SCRIPTURES a lot! They
went to the TEMPLE a lot! From the
OUTSIDE, they LOOKED really HOLY!



But!!!!

THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IN JESUS!

In fact, they HATED JESUS & they HATED anyone
who followed Jesus! And PAUL used to be ONE
OF THEM until Jesus appeared to him in a powerful
way & showed Paul how WRONG he was & that he
NEEDED JESUS! See Acts 9. So because Paul
used to BE a Pharisee, he knew EXACTLY how
EVIL they were. Read John 8:42-50 to see what Jesus
said about the Pharisees! They were ENEMIES of Je-
sus. And now they were ENEMIES of Paul too be-
cause Paul was now a follower of Jesus! Paul knew
that those Pharisees would try to STOP him from
talking about Jesus in Jerusalem. They would try to
STOP him from giving all those much needed sup-
plies to the poor people by perhaps convincing them
that they should NOT take these supplies from Paul!

That's where this next part of Paul's prayer comes in: "and that my service which I *have* for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints."

Paul knew that these PHARISEES would try everything they could to STOP the followers of Jesus from telling others about Jesus, from worshipping Jesus & from helping God's people! Now doesn't that sound like what someone else we learned about recently would do?

WHO IS THAT SOMEONE ELSE?

SATAN!

And Paul KNEW FIRST HAND that Satan fights against God & will do everything he can to STOP GOD'S PEOPLE from following God! In fact, Paul said this about Satan when Paul wanted to go to another city to tell people about Jesus:

"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."

1Thessalonians 2:18 KJB

And HOW does Satan HINDER God's people? By using HIS PEOPLE - people like the Pharisees - to try to STOP believers from knowing, loving, serving & worshipping God!

Paul's prayer shows us that there IS a BATTLE GOING ON & PRAYER is part of that BATTLE!

Do a little BIBLE STUDY about this BATTLE! Read how Satan uses people to trick & deceive God's people in 2Corinthians 11:14-16 KJB. Keep on READING your Bible to LEARN MORE BATTLE PRAYERS & then WORK HARD AT PRAYING!



GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

Directions

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.

From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.



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