

CARING NETWORK BULLETIN



October 2005

Prayer for Others

Prayer is perhaps the strangest and most marvelous of all God's provisions. It is a way whereby a man may extend his influence for good far beyond his natural powers – without limit – into eternal things. Quote from "Godliness with Contentment", by Brethren Troy Haltom and George Booker P. 42



In Ephesians, Paul talks about putting on the armour of God to withstand the pressures of evil. He ends his message by counselling us to, *pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.* Eph 6:18NIV

Eph 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Carefully read the following quote from James 5: 13-16 NIV, and ask yourself if you truly believe this to be true.

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is any one happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

This passage shows faith in several ways: the one who asks for help from his elders shows faith in asking for help. That is not always easy. The elders show faith in responding to the request of their brother or sister. The elders also show love in so responding.

We tend not to want to share our weaknesses and faults with others, but how can we operate as a family if we don't share our problems? Also, by sharing our trials and problems with our ecclesia or others, when

a prayer is seen to be answered, God is then glorified and praised by all rather than just by the one, and all are strengthened and encouraged. The strength and comfort that is felt by those being prayed for does make a difference. Even if we feel there is nothing we can do to help, we can do an enormous service in prayer.

Christ's Example

- When Christ faced a problem, a decision, or a temptation he turned to his Father in prayer. And he too, prayed for others. Note particularly in John 17, where we read of Christ praying for himself, praying for his disciples and then praying for other believers.
- Luke 22:32 Christ prays for Peter's faith not to fail.
- Christ asks us to pray for our enemies, to pray for those who spitefully use or slander or falsely accuse us and persecute us. Matt 5:44
- One of his final prayers to his Father was a prayer for others, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do". Luke 23:34
- When we pray, He has taught us to forgive those who trespass against us. "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have any thing against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. Mk 11:25 NAS

Prayers of the Faithful

The patriarchs, who showed such amazing faith and strength in adversity, were all men of prayer, not only that, they **were all men who prayed for others!**

- Gen 19:29 **Abraham** prayed for Lot when God was on the verge of destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. The angel dragged a hesitant Lot out, answering Abraham's prayer.
- Daniel 9:4-19 **Daniel's** humble and repentant supplication to God on behalf of the nation of Israel. Daniel actually accepts the sin of the people himself.
- 2 Chronicles 30:18-20 **Hezekiah** prays for those who ate the Passover without purifying themselves and it says God heard Hezekiah's prayer and healed them.

- In the first few verses of the book of **Job**, we learn that it was Job's custom to offer sacrifices for his sons and daughters in case they had sinned and cursed God in their hearts. And at the end of the book we find Job being instructed to pray for his friends so they would not be dealt with according to their folly. The Lord accepted Job's prayer on their behalf. Job 42:7-9
- **Paul** was truly a man of prayer, always making mention of his brethren in his prayers and he asked for them to pray for him too, that he might be given the words to speak and would be able to proclaim the gospel with boldness. (Eph 3:19) Imagine Paul, having the gift of the Holy Spirit, called to be a minister to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus himself, asking for the prayers of others!

Scriptural Principles for Prayer

The following notes are thanks to Bre Shawn Snobelen and Jeremy Foster from their Study Day on Prayer.

"In order to determine exactly what it is we should pray for we look to the Word to extract principles, and then we will attempt to clarify how to put these principles into daily practice."

- **Primary Principle is to Pray according to God's Will.**
John 5:30, John 12:27
- **Second one is to Pray for Others**
Matthew 22:37-39, Matt. 5:44, Luke 22:32,

Our prayers may be inhibited by our attitude. We need to ensure we have the right attitude before we go before our Heavenly Father in prayer. In preparing our minds for prayer, the first thing we need is to:

- *Make ourselves right before God* - Psalm 24:3-5
- *Humble ourselves before God* - Luke 18:9-13, Matthew 6:5
- *Confess our sins before God and Men* - James 5:16
- *Pray In sincerity and truth* - Psalms 145:18
- *Ask in Christ's name* - John 14:13,14
- *Ask with confidence* - 1John 5:14,15; Hebrews 13:6
- *Have faith we will receive God's help*
Mark 11:24; Matthew 17:20

Our Life of Prayer

How do we approach our prayer life?

Do we have a specific time of day to devote to prayer?

Do we meditate and give careful thought to what and whom we are praying for?

Do we make a prayer list of those who are in need of God's help?

Perhaps a prayer journal would help; jotting down the things we pray for and the answers to our prayers. And then not forgetting to thank and praise our Heavenly Father for His answer.

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? Deut 4:7-8 RSV

We need to be a people of prayer! Especially now, in these last days. We need to believe in the power of prayer - Christ commands us to pray. Luke 18:1 *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;* The word "ought" here means, must; it is necessary; does not fail, needful; should.

Christadelphian Books on Prayer

- **Prayer**, by Bro Harry Whittaker
A small pamphlet sized booklet with thought provoking comments and challenges to our thinking
- **The Path of Prayer**, by Bro. John Morris
Prayer, Studies in Principle and Practice, by Bre. Melva Purkis and Cyril Tennant
- **Beyond Bible Basics**, by Bro. Duncan Heaster; chapter 5.1, pgs 328-365
- **The Testimony magazine Special Issue: "Be Constant in Prayer", May 2003, Vol. 73, No. 869**
- The Libronix digital library system software is a great resource, which allows you to search old Christadelphian magazines up to the year 2000 on various topics.
- **The Genius of Discipleship**, by Bro. Dennis Gillette, chpt 12 and 13

Appeal for Financial Assistance

We anticipate our expenses this year to amount to \$7000. This is needed for telephone expenses to and from callers, the training of telephone volunteers and for our annual seminar. The bank balance, as of September of this year was \$3,337.76. Should any brethren wish to make donations before the end of the year, they can be sent to Brother Donald Elliott, 17 Trillium Court, Guelph, N1G 4P8. Those wishing a tax receipt should make the cheque payable to "Hamilton West Ave. Christadelphian Ecclesia". Otherwise, the cheque may be made out to the "Christadelphian Caring Network."

Caring Network Resources

- **Christadelphian Care-Line**, 1 866 823-1039 toll-free
- **www.caringnetwork.ca** Caring Network Website

REQUEST Please send us suggestions for future topics, useful resources, or comments about what we have written. Contact Sis. Jennifer Daniel, 604 469-2392, or 4 Foxwood Court, Port Moody, BC V3H 4W7, or jenniferdaniel@telus.net

