

Thy Kingdom Come (Day 6)
Tuesday 26th May 2020

'If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and **pray.....**'

Thinking about our prayer life, how easy do I find it to pray? Do I find prayer challenging because my mind wanders? Think about your prayer life and ask, do I set specific time aside to pray and commit to this time before God each day, as my special time with Him?

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges and most wonderful gifts we have in this world and if we treasure it in our time as devotion, we will see an amazing transformation in our faith and our walk as a Christian. The beauty of prayer is we can pray at any time. We don't have to follow set prayers, we can speak with God, open our hearts to Him, telling Him of all our joys, worries and concerns.

Paul writing to the church in Ephesus reminds the Christians that we are not so much walking through a park on our journey of faith following Jesus, but engaged in a battle. Spiritual warfare is the struggle we must recognise, So Paul wanting to equip his church in Ephesus tells them, 'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand'.

Corrie ten Boom recognised the spiritual warfare in the Christian life, saying,
"When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy."

Rev. Oswald Chambers sums up for us our challenge, If we struggle in prayer its because the enemy is gaining ground, if prayer is simple to us its because we have the victory. There is no such thing as a holiday for the beating heart, if there is the grave comes next. Likewise there is no such thing as a moral or spiritual holiday, for if we take the break, the next time we want to pray it's a struggle because the enemy has gained ground, and victory is all round!

When we struggle to pray don't let the devil take any more ground but stand firm, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish every flaming dart fired at you by the evil one. Take up the sword of the Spirit (The word of God) and with the full armour stand firm, take your stand for Jesus. The biggest spiritual battles are won in prayer. We may not even have the words to speak, so sit in His presence, humbly ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you in the time of prayer. Don't try to run a marathon in one attempt, build up your level of stamina in the prayer room. Be consistent in times committed to God, for He will keep His appointment with you, don't be late for your appointment with Him.

Do we read the Scriptures? Combine this with your time of prayer. Pray before you read, pause and pray as you read and pray after you have read. For this is the Word of God and He will reveal to you His will. Let prayer become less of a battle and more of a blessing and of refreshment, as we sit at the feet of the One who loves us, and who wants us to grow in closer in fellowship with Him. He will help lead us into the prayers He wants us to

make and for those He wants us to pray for. If we had more intercessors in church maybe we would have more victories and less casualties of faith and fallings away.

Remember the hymn Soldiers of the Cross Arise (719 H&P) have a read again, sing if you know the tune.

If my people shall humble themselves and pray.....

Pray for your 5 Names.

Has the way you pray for the 5 people changed over the last few days?