

THMinistry.org

We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

247365

A Message for Adults

Week of Sunday 18June, 2017 A.D.
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Sunday 24 Sivan, 5777

THMinistry.org

- All of us know that we should be praying. Yet prayer is not practiced with any regularity, fervency, or quantity. Why are we not praying like we should?
- Cynicism undergirds our resistance to this divinely ordained practice. We think to ourselves, *God does not actually answer prayers. Why should I bother? Everything will turn out the same anyway.* This is the reason why Wednesday night Prayer and Bible Study meetings are barren. If we thought God answered prayers, fellowships would be

THMinistry.org

packed. Thank God that a few saints still pray.

- Boredom is a giant obstacle to prayer. *I wish to pray for so and so. God watch over them.* Praying the same prayer, lifting up the same subjects, can become boring. They prayed for their kids once; why should they bother anymore? Many stop praying.
- Self-confidence is another factor. Have you noticed prayer becomes more important when tragedy occurs? Fellowships fill up in the wake of such events, and people are ready to pray.

THMinistry.org

But as long as food is on the table and everything is in order, we are confident that we have everything handled. We are not desperate enough to pray.

- Health concerns are the primary topic of fellowship prayer. Such prayer is not bad, but significant issues are usually absent.
- Are we praying for the renewal of our minds? Are we praying for the transformation of our deceitful hearts? Are we praying for repentance and revival?

THMinistry.org

- We know praying scripture is always God's will. A Prayer of Petition is not boring. The apostle Paul prayed this model for the saints at Philippi.

Text: Philippians 1: 9-11 ASV

I pray, that your love may abound, Philippians 1: 9
more and more in knowledge and all discernment.

Philippians 1: 9

So that ye may approve the things that are
excellent; Philippians 1: 10

THMinistry.org

that ye may be sincere and void of offence

Philippians 1: 10

unto the day of Christ. Philippians 1: 10

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness,

Philippians 1: 11

which are through Jesus Christ, Philippians 1: 11

unto the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1: 11

- Imagine what this kind of love would do in your fellowship? Frequently, Paul mentioned members of the fellowship by name, and

THMinistry.org

desired their love would abound like a flooding river. When we are filled with such a vibrant love, we will deal with all sorts of sin issues, resolving grudges and betrayals.

- Paul wants the saints to have discernment. He wants them to know right from wrong and be able to tell what is good from what is excellent. Jesus' gospel will foster such discernment in us. Basketball is not bad. When one is terminally ill, discernment provided through that circumstance quickly illuminates excellent activity and basketball falls down the list of

THMinistry.org

priorities. The deathly sick will begin to focus on eternal issues. Paul wants the saints to have love that produces that kind of discernment.

- Purity is another desire expressed by Paul. Think of a light shining and no blemish or imperfection being seen. Purity can stand in the light transparent and confident. Someday you will stand in the light of God's holiness and be thoroughly scrutinized and judged. If you do not have the light of Jesus in your heart, you will be in trouble. Imagine if that sort of purity was

THMinistry.org

applied to every saint. We need to be praying our walk as Christians be increasingly pure.

- Being filled with righteousness is an expression of our inner nature. Spiritual fruit bearing only arises through inner transformation. When we are Spirit filled, fruit is produced. There is a harvest. It proclaims the glory of God. Imagine a spirit filled fellowship where nothing else matters but the glory of God. Then our prayer is no longer about what we want.
- You could pray Paul's prayer for anyone and

THMinistry.org

everyone. Memorize the verses. Whomsoever you meet during the day, at home, at work, at school, at play, at the game, at fellowship; pray for them. You can pray this prayer **24** hours a day, **7** days a week, **365** days a year.

- You need not say *If it be your will, Lord*. It is His will. It was God breathed. An inspired apostle told you tHis Word.
- Fathers are priest and kings of their family. Building a bridge between man and God by

THMinistry.org

praying, sets the example. Imagine what this kind of love will do in family fellowship dealing with sin, resolving grudges and forgiving betrayals. Happy Father's Day.

You are invited to join us!

We continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

We study doctrine and pray every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.