



WEEKLY SERMON

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Sunday **April 24, 2022**
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Message: **Character**

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This is a longer than usual devotional letter to introduce this week's **Weekly SERMON**. However, I trust it will not only bless your heart as it did mine, but also be an encouragement and help in praying for others, especially those in God given ministries. In Sharon Better's book "**Treasures of Encouragement**" she wrote:

"PRAYER mysteriously connects us to one another emotionally and makes us a participant in the work God is doing in their soul. It also gives us a deep way to express our love to and for them. How true that is. I feel bonded in love with those of you that pray with and for us."

Here I am reminded of one of Paul's prayers he wrote in Philippians 1:8-11,

"For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. (9) And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; (10) That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; (11) Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

What a prayer! I would love for many to pray for me that way, for those all-important qualities to be evident in my Christian life.

If you have no clue how to pray beyond the "God bless the missionaries and others in the ministry" here is an acrostic that recently came to my attention. It was written by a missionary on how to pray for other missionaries. Perhaps this could help you and those in your church who are struggling to pray for those living on the front lines of world missions.

M - Motivation: Pray for missionaries not to lose sight of their true motivation to share Christ, even as they face inconveniences, frustrations dealing with cultures foreign to them and simply dealing with people. As we know, ministry would be easy if it were not for the people!

I - Impossible tasks: Faced with the incredible task of a desperate nation in great need of a Savior, compounded with insurmountable obstacles (from our human perspective), it is easy to feel overwhelmed. Pray for our missionaries to not only remember, but experience that WITH GOD nothing is IMPOSSIBLE. God delights in showing His power turning obstacles into opportunities! As they pound on the very door of the Evil One, they will not readily be welcomed in, that is for sure. BUT ultimate victory WILL be ours!

S - Strength: Living in a foreign country, especially those serving in third world countries, often face physical challenges. Just simple transportation can be physically challenging on

the body, mind and spirit. Life is challenging. There are neither ready-made meals nor Walmart type stores in one great convenient shopping plaza. Life there takes much effort and work. Immune strength is also a very important prayer need as missionaries are often faced with exposure to dangerous infections and diseases.

S - Sensitivity: Those in ministry need the heart of a puppy and the shell of a turtle. They don't battle against flesh and blood...but often the flesh and blood people are the face of the Evil One as he attacks them and the One they represent. We need to pray that even amidst attack externally (the unsaved) or internally (other Christians or coworkers) our missionaries would stay sensitive and controlled by the Holy Spirit in their response.

I - Intensity: Many missionaries are "on call" 24/7 with really emotionally challenging issues with which to deal. Pray for our missionaries not to be overwhelmed with the intensity of need and hurt all around them to the point they just stop trying to reach out for fear of emotional entanglement and discouragement!

O - Openness: Pray for our missionaries, since they truly live in a fish bowl. What an incredible opportunity to show Jesus Christ in their homes, marriages, parenting and even in their verbal responses to the unsaved. Especially since we know that if they fall short, many are affected.

N - Nourishment: Since they are constantly giving out through their ministries, there is a huge need for missionaries to make sure they are feasting in God's Word. Taped messages or a Biblical video series can be such a blessing, but nothing can replace personal time spent in prayer and the study of God's Word.

A - Amazement: It is easy to look at the negative and forget the wonderful things GOD is doing. Pray that our missionaries will not get bogged down in the mud of the ministry, but will keep their eyes on the rainbow of HOPE that God continues to give as we serve Him faithfully.

R - Relationships: Maintaining balance is the hardest battle. Knowing and doing God's will - nothing less - nothing more - is a challenge when you live surrounded by limitless need. Pray that God will give great wisdom to those faced with this great challenge. Pray for the marriages and family structure to stay strong as well. Satan knows if the family or marriage falls apart, the ministry is lost as well.

Y - YOU and ME: The effectual prayers of a righteous man or woman AVAILETH much. We all need to really get serious about prayer. Missions is not really short of resources nor even people power. We are SHORT on serious effectual prayer by righteous people that will uphold the ministries fervently...THEN GOD WILL WORK in amazing ways!! He will make our efforts more fruitful, and the Gospel will blaze new trails we cannot even imagine!

Paul challenged the saints in Colossians 4:2-6 with this request, "**Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; (3) Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: (4) That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. (5) Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. (6) Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**"

As I close, let me say a thank you to the many who fervently and effectually pray with us each week. I leave you with the arresting words found in 1 Thessalonians 5:25, "**Brethren PRAY for us!**"

In His Amazing Grace,
Pastor David Miklas

Happy Christians Have A Place Of Service Within A Local Church

In Galatians 6:7-8 we read, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

Bible Study Objectives:

1. To remind us that **we are clearly commanded to serve one another:** (John 21:15-17, Psalms 100:3, Galatians 5:13)
2. To remind us that **at conversion we are given gifts to serve others in the body of Christ:** (I Corinthians 12:1-31)
3. To remind us that **Jesus loved the church and we too are to love the house of the Lord:** (Ephesians 5:25, Psalms 122:1)
4. To remind us that **the real test of authentic Christianity is when we show agape love one to another:** (John 13:35)
5. To remind us that **authentic love for Jesus is clearly demonstrated as we daily obey Him:** (John 14:15, John 15:10)

Things We Need To Know Before We Agree To Serve Others In A Local Church:

1. **We are to be faithful in our attendance - testimony – talent – temper – treasure:** (Hebrews 10:25, I Corinthians 4:2)
2. **Real joy only comes to us through service and service from the heart results in close friendships:** (John 15:11,15)
3. **Only ten percent of church members are active in faithfully serving others in the body of Christ:** (I Corinthians 3:3)
4. **A body that only has ten percent of its parts functioning will be crippled and handicapped:** (I Corinthians 12:26-28)
5. **It is impossible to be happy unless we serve others in the church with a positive attitude:** (Acts 20:35, (Luke 6:38)
6. **A church family provides prayer/fellowship and prevents loneliness/depression/discouragement:** (Proverbs 18:24)
7. **God uses major conflict and difficulty in church to grow our character/competence/chemistry:** (I Corinthians 1:10-11)
8. **Bullies exist in church and must be called out before they destroy health/unity:** (Proverbs 6:19, III John 1:9-11)
9. **Every believer is in the ministry and are just as important as those who are paid ministers:** (I Corinthians 12:18-30)
10. **Others will be blessed if we are using our primary spiritual gifts in church:** (I Timothy 4:12-16, 5:17, James 3:1)
11. **Those in authority recognize believers who execute their gifts with excellence:** (Proverbs 22:29, Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Bible Study Summary:

Missionary C.T. Studd years ago wrote: “Only one life, yes only one, soon its fleeting hours will be done. Then on that day my Lord we will meet, and stand before His judgment seat, only one life twill soon be past, only what’s done for

Christ will last. When this bright world would tempt me sore, when Satan would a victory score, when self would seek to have its way, then remind me Lord with joy to say; only one life twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."

The Above lesson was written by Tommy Dowling
a Sunday School Teacher for over 40 years.

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "Happy Christians have a Place of Service within a Local Church" right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

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

Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation."

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to pastormiklas@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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