

Episode 132

I appeal to you by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join in my struggle by praying to God on my behalf.

- Romans 15

As Paul begins to bring his letter to a close, he allows a few private moments to bubble to the top, and one of them is this verse where he calls on the church to pray for him. The language he uses is both strong and specific, urging the church to pray for him as they strive together to do what God has called them to do. In the same way, as we begin to bring our daily devotions to a close, I also want to encourage you to pray fervently for 3Ci and her people at this time.

Please would you pray for the leaders? We have been through an unprecedented season that some have likened to a time of war. Although it has been tough for all of us to face a season like this, tending to the cracks and cries of countless others while we try to make sense of today and prepare for tomorrow has weighed heavily on most of us. Pray for the presence of God upon his people, the 'parakaleo' of the Holy Spirit in weary hearts, and the wisdom to know how to move forward into all that God has prepared for us.

Pray too for family and friends who come to mind and let the Holy Spirit drop names into your spirit that you may not naturally think of. Imagine the power of thousands of people praying for one another, earnestly seeking the heart of God for each other, trusting that God will break through in unprecedented and unexpected ways as he draws his people under his wings.

And finally, pray for our nation. Just scroll through your favourite newsfeed and you will see that our country is in desperate need of prayer. I once heard a leader say that he made a habit of praying over every news headline he saw while he drove along the streets of his city. What a great place to start. Pray too for our government, for wisdom, for corruption to be exposed, for our health workers, the turmoil around Covid, our problematic parastatals, SMEs, finances and anything else you feel moved to pray for.

Let me remind you of the miraculous answer to prayer when friends began to pray for Elna who was on the brink of a murky medical future, only to be asked by her doctor a few hours later, "who has been praying for you, because this is nothing short of a miracle?!" Let me remind you too of the months of prayer that saw generosity break out over our recent building project allowing us to be completely debt-free in lockdown.

Let me remind you that we serve a God who answers prayers. And we have the privilege to pray them.

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