

## Let's Pray a Different Way

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.

I Timothy 2:1

I may grasp at prayer in an emergency and desperately come before God in difficulty, but everyday abiding prayer and the urgent sense of the Holy Spirit's call to intercession are much more difficult to establish in my life. The kind of prayer Paul calls us to is more of an established, unselfish effort to a faithful lifestyle of prayer awareness. There are needs all around us and we are in times that unless we see the hand of God move, many will be lost to an eternity without the One who loves them.

Jesus is a great model of a praying person. He often withdrew to places of solitude and prayed, but he also seemed to walk in prayer. Think about it. Wherever he went, truth confronted lies, godliness trumped religiosity, health broke through sickness, love conquered fear, forgiveness flowed over guilt and shame, abundance overruled poverty and power raised the weak. Prayer to Jesus was his word. He knew the Father's heart and spoke it. Prayer is a release of the Kingdom of God through making requests as we see them, speaking out prayers when we encounter roadblocks, making intercession when we see a person in the grasp of the evil one and singing with thanksgiving and worship as we walk into a room or a school or a doctor's office or at work to change the spiritual climate so that miracles can happen.

Truly it's time to battle against the enemy and by command wrench his claws from God's property. We are blood-bought believers of the greater things and we will not let what we don't see dictate what is. When Jesus hit the road and started preaching he said that the Kingdom of God is here. The Kingdom of God is not just a threat to the Kingdom of Darkness, it's a promise. Open warfare started with the birth of Christ but nothing annihilated the power of evil like his death and resurrection. Jesus is not sitting on the throne waiting. He is actively involved in overthrow. That's the purpose of the church. The church is a people aligned for the purposes of God, taking what is rightfully His. We have the power and the authority to do it. When you read Acts you see men and women walking as Jesus did. They often withdrew to places to learn, worship and pray and then they went out and lived among the lost proclaiming the truth and demonstrating the unseen Kingdom. They walked in prayer awareness. And my, how they grew!

Today we cannot lose the awareness that the early church had. Yes, many years have passed and somehow the exciting good news has become old news to much of this generation. But it only takes a few folks who are willing to go out and speak requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving over the places their feet take them. It only takes a few who really believe that they are not crazy to expect the Kingdom of Darkness to back off when they show up. They are NOT crazy. They are in their right mind. The transformed mind that says all things are possible for him who believes!