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Theme: Prayer Is Not An Assignment

Scripture: Philippians 4:6

“Be anxious for nothing, but in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

A Thought:

To bring in the dawn of the new year our pastor encourages the church folk to be a “praying warrior church.” Hence, the first week of January scores of the faithful enter the sanctuary to pray and to converse with God our deepest hurts and praises at the annual gathering entitled Prayer Mountain. The preceding Sunday church bulletin our erudite and spirit-filled pastor quoted Christian writer C.S. Lewis’ thoughts on prayer...“prayer ennobles us” meaning it elevates us spiritually. The famous author goes to say... *“I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time...waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, it changes me.”* When we go before our Lord in prayer something happens deep inside the crevices of our hearts, mind and soul. A faithful prayer engages our most inner being with the Lord. No one around just you and God. As Lewis stated, *“it doesn't change God, it changes me.”* It's you and the Lord together in conversation. In the Gospel of Luke the disciples asked Jesus, *“Teach us how to pray.”* He told them a good way to start is the Lord's Prayer...“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”....Luke 11:1-13. Wow! Even the disciples had a prayer mountain conclave.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- What does praying mean to you? Do you believe the Lord listens to your prayers? Have you been disappointed with the results of prayer?
- It's been said that constant prayer is the path to His presence...do you agree? Is it difficult to find time to pray?
- How often do you pray? Do you set aside special time to pray?

Scriptures to read:

- Psalm 17:6; 18:3, 42, 63; Micah 6:8; Proverbs 22:6; 24:3; Matthew 5:44-45, 7:8, 21:22; John 15:7, 16:24; II Corinthians 7:10; Acts 4:31; Romans 12:4-13

Quote: Corrie Ten Boom, author *"The Hiding Place"* and aided Jewish refugees. *"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 devils shouts for joy."*

Bottom Line: Why should we pray? I posed the question to my wife and her reply was quick... *"It's a privilege to be in His presence"* a slam-dunk response! Our pastor tells us that prayer *"Allows you to be in God's presence and to hear His voice."* Two wonderful answers. Well, I must have been out to lunch mentally and spiritually during the five day Prayer Mountain meetings at our church! Here is the play by play. I enthusiastically attended Prayer Mountain for the first three days. The last two days I had the sniffles and subsequently did not attend the prayer sessions. Poor me. What a wimp! As Corrie Ten Boom states above... *"when he (Christian) stops praying, the devils shouts for joy."* Don't get me wrong - I do pray. The question is why I did not spend an hour with the Lord during the same time as Prayer Mountain was in session? No, I sat on my comfy sofa and watched the boob-tube. Yes, Corrie, the devil was shouting for joy! Forgive me Lord. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:18 to pray in the Spirit on ALL occasions not just appointed and scheduled pray gatherings.... *"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."* (NIV) Take heed Spiritual Dabbler!

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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