

Prayer Week 2017—Romans 12:12

- Anchor Text—Romans 12:12—Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
- Bunyan Definition: a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart and soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to his Word, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God.
- Intro:
 - Prayer interesting b/c almost impossible to say something “new”/“novel”
 - Seems that most/lots of Christians operate with some low-level guilt over NOT praying or not praying ENOUGH.
 - DO NOT WANT TO GUILT AND SHAME US IN HERE—guilt and shame is a BAD motivator because they don’t draw us TO the Lord but push us away!
- Be constant in prayer = BE DEVOTED TO PRAYER
 - Acts 1:14—continually devoting themselves to prayer
 - Acts 2:42—they were continually devoting themselves to the teaching and to prayer
 - Acts 6:4—we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word
 - Colossians 4:2—devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of Thanksgiving
- Devotion to prayer cultivates intimacy with Christ
 - Jesus is our example here—constantly seeking intimacy with the Father through the means of PRAYER!
 - Mark 1:35—and rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.”
 - Luke 5:15-16— But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.
 - Luke 6:12— In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.
 - Matthew 14:23—And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.
 - It is through prayer and the Word that we abide deeply in Christ, hear the voice of the shepherd and cultivate a relationship of intimacy with the Lord!
 - We have turned prayer into some technical lock we figure out how to open/some formula or riddle to crack rather than a channel of deep relational intimacy with the God who made us!
 - Problem with ACRONYMS—we can get lost in the acronym and forget that relationship is the heart of prayer! Acronyms aren’t bad but they aren’t gospel either!
- Devotion to prayer cultivates maturity in Christ
 - Colossians 1:9-12—READ THIS OVER THE CONGREGATION
 - “filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding”
 - Colossians 1:28 = Paul’s heart behind the prayer—him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone MATURE in Christ.
 - We pray over you all that 2018 is a year of growth in GOSPEL DEPTH! Deep roots of faith!
 - Goal 1—be in love with Christ....Goal 2—be mature in Christ.
 - Eph. 3:16-19—comprehend the full love of God THAT you may be FILLED UP to all the FULLNESS of God.
- Devotion to prayer cultivates missionary zeal for Christ
 - Saturate our city with prayer—feel blind to the lost, neighbors, co-workers, etc....START PRAYING FOR THEM REGULARLY BY NAME.
 - Luke 10:2—The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

- The response to lostness is EARNEST PRAYER for laborers and for harvest!
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1 — finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you.
 - May we pray—Lord, speed your word and your work along through this place. Do a thousand times over what you have done here at Harvest!
- Psalm 2:8—Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as your possession.
 - The son shall have the reward of his suffering! Our motive for prayer and confidence in prayer is the complete righteousness of Christ and his totally finished work at calvary!