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## Will You Pray for Me?

By Jeff Bedwell on June 21, 2022

### TODAY'S READING: Romans 15

Sometimes we may be tempted to think that anyone who has walked with God and been used by God as powerfully as the apostle Paul was did not need the prayers of other people. Paul knew that this was not true. As he concluded this chapter, he asked the Roman believers to pray for him (vv. 30-32) and in so doing reminds us of some very important truths. We can summarize these truths in this way:

- Prayer is effective – it makes a difference in our lives and circumstances.
- Prayer is necessary – it is one of God's appointed means of doing His will in the world.
- Prayer is difficult – it is a work that we are to strive in. It is the same word we get our English word *agony* from. It engages us on the front lines of spiritual warfare.

R.A. Torrey told the following story about the potential of prayer:

Let me tell you how Dwight L. Moody became an evangelist. Moody was a shoe salesman who was also the teacher of a boy's Bible class in Chicago. He was there at the time of the Great Chicago Fire, and after he had done his part in getting together some money to help the poor and buy a building for his own work, he went to England for a rest. He did not intend to preach. He only wanted to hear Charles Spurgeon, George Mueller, and some others. But one Sunday he was invited to preach in a Congregational church in north London, and he accepted.

Sunday morning did not go well. Moody said that he had "no power, no liberty; it seemed like pulling a heavy train up a steep grade." It was so bad that he tried to get out of preaching the evening service, for which he had also been invited, but the minister would not let him off.

That evening it was quite different. Moody felt unusual power, and when he got to the end he decided to give an invitation. He asked all who wanted to accept Christ to get to their feet, and about five hundred people did. Moody thought there must be some mistake, perhaps they just didn't understand him. So he asked them to sit down. Then he said, "After this meeting there will be an after-service in the vestry, and I invite all who are serious about receiving Christ to come to that meeting." There was a door to the vestry on each side of the pulpit, and when the service was over the people began to stream through.

"Who are all these people?" Moody asked the pastor. "Are they yours?"

"Some of them are."

"Are they Christians?"

"Not as far as I know," was the reply.

Moody went into the vestry and repeated the invitation in even stronger terms, and the people all once again expressed their willingness to become Christians. Moody still thought there must be some mistake. He said, "I have to go to Ireland tomorrow, but your pastor will still be here and if you really mean what you have just said, come tomorrow night and meet with him again." A few days later, when he was in Ireland, Moody received a telegram from the minister saying, "There were more people here on Monday night than on Sunday. A revival has broken out in our church, and you must return from Ireland and help me." Moody did return, and what happened in those days was the basis for the invitations that later took him back to England and then over the whole world as an evangelist.

That alone is a remarkable story, but here is the rest of it. There were two sisters in that north London church, one of whom was a bed-ridden invalid. After the morning service at which Moody had first preached the healthy sister came home and reported that a Mr. Moody had been there that morning.

"Mr. Moody of Chicago?" asked the sister. When told that he was the one who had preached, the sick sister said, "I have read about him in the newspapers and have been praying that he would come to London and that God would send him to our church. If I had known that it was he who would be preaching this morning, I would have eaten no breakfast and have spent the time praying instead. Now leave me alone. Don't let anyone in to see me. I am going to spend the rest of the day and evening fasting and in prayer." That is what she did, and the revival in north London resulted.

As we think about the state of our nation and our world, the great need is for men and women who will prevail in prayer! Will you be among them?

**PRAYER:** Father, our need is desperate, and Your power and grace are great. Help us seek You in prayer like we have never sought You before. Lord, teach us to pray!

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Romans 16

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