

“The Importance of Praying for Others”

1 Thess. 5:25

Introduction

- I. Christians should look at their opportunities to pray for others as a blessing.
- II. Paul asked for prayers on his behalf frequently (1 Thess. 5:25; Rom 15:30; Eph. 6:19; Col. 4:3).
- III. By praying for others, Christians demonstrate certain things.
 1. The need for God's help
 2. The belief that God answers
 3. The trust in others to do right

Discussion

- I. The need for God's help
 - A. There are times in our lives that we long for help.
 - B. The greatest source of help is God.
 1. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught the truth that God is willing to help (Matt. 7:7-11).
 2. Paul understood that God helped him through his life (2 Tim. 4:17).
 - C. Through providence, God meets our needs (Matt. 6:33; Phil. 4:11).
- II. The belief that God answers
 - A. If we do not have faith that God is and answers prayers, then our attempts at prayer are fruitless (Heb. 11:6; Matt. 21:22; James 1:5-8; 1 John 3:22).
 - B. When we pray for others we should always make sure that our prayers are done appropriately.
 1. To the right source (Matt. 6:9).
 2. By the right authority (Matt. 28:18-19; Col. 3:17).
 3. For the right reasons (James 4:3; 1 John 5:14).
- III. The trust in others to do right
 - A. Many times, in order for a prayer to be answered, a person must do something himself (cf. Matt. 9:37-38).
 - B. We can pray for someone to get help, but if he is unwilling to receive such, then he will miss his blessing.
 - C. When others ask for our prayers, they are demonstrating a belief that we are living right (John 3:22; James 5:16-18; 1 Pet. 3:12; Prov. 15:29).

Conclusion

- I. The ability for Christians to pray for others is a great blessing.
- II. By requesting prayer, others demonstrate need, belief, and trust.