

Weekly Devotions: LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER 14

Pray For One Another

The church is not a place where we visit once a week to worship. It is the family of God and as part of the family we need to be involved in the lives of others; to support, to care, to share and, most of all, to intercede for one another.

We often pray for church events and activities and neglect praying for the people in our midst. It is important that we should pray for those amongst us who are in distress, for the pastors, staff, lay leadership team and those serving in the various ministries. Let's not forget also to pray for the children, the youth, the seniors, for families, the domestic maids, the foreign workers, etc. who are in our midst.

Arthur Pink, a theologian, said, "The measure of our love for others is determined by the frequency and earnestness of our prayers for them." Give time to listen to God and to one another; pray also for each other. The apostle Paul challenged the Thessalonian believers that they should "pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5: 17-18).

Read John 17:6-26

On the night of Jesus' arrest, He was more concerned for His disciples than for Himself. After giving them His mandate to love one another, Jesus prayed for Himself, for His disciples (9) and also all who would believe in Him (20). He prayed that God would protect them from the evil one and watch over them (11-12, 15). He also prayed for their sanctification and transformation through God's word (17, 19) as well as for love and unity amongst them (21-23). He prayed that through their oneness many would come to know the Father and His saving grace through the Son. He prayed also that His followers would have His joy (13) and be with Him and see His glory (24). Our Lord continues to intercede for us in heaven and we too should not forget or neglect interceding for one another.

Questions to ponder

1. Which of Jesus' prayer requests do you need most for yourself? Why? What & who do you pray for most of the time? List 3 changes you would make to your prayer list using Jesus' intercession as a model.
2. What are the 3 needs Jesus repeatedly asked His Father on our behalf in verses 11, 21-23; and verses 11-12, 15 and verses 17 & 19? Do you think these requests are relevant and needed for the Church today?
3. What and who in the church would you commit to pray for daily and 'without ceasing'?

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