

EVERYDAY LIFE

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

"We don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray." Romans 8:26 NLT

"Prayer is where Heaven touches your everyday life with unimagined possibilities."

My thoughts today are about **"help wanted."**

You have seen *"help wanted"* ads, maybe printed in the paper or just handwritten and tacked on a bulletin board in a public place - people needing someone's help to build or fix something, or to fill a job opening with a qualified worker. There are a lot of times and ways that you will need help. Sometimes that seems hard to ask for, and sometimes it might seem hard to find. But I think that **most of us know that we need help, and we want the help we need.**

There may be few areas of everyday life where we need help any more than in the realm of prayer. When our grandson was very young, his Dad was saying evening prayers with the children before bed. He began to notice that our grandson was the only one of the children not volunteering to pray. When asked why, his answer was simple, *"I don't know what to say."* Our son explained to him that talking to God was just like talking to Dad, to which he responded, *"Most of what I say to you is 'uh huh and okay.'"* Maybe a young boy had a better understanding of prayer than many of us have, who are older but not wiser - that prayer is saying to God, *"yes, and okay, I will."* **Isn't prayer more about what God has to say to you than what you need to tell him?**

Prayer is where Heaven touches your everyday life with unforeseen and unimagined possibilities. Since Heaven more actively and powerfully can affect ordinary, earthly matters than you may realize, prayer is very important to everyday life, both in emergencies as well as the routine. You know you have needs, and you know how badly you want those needs met, but you may not always know how to pray about them. Have you ever felt like that? The disciples felt like that. They said to Jesus, *"Lord, teach us to pray."* Luke 11:1. He will gladly teach you to pray also.

The good news about prayer is that it is not up to you alone to make it work. **It's communication, not a monologue.** Prayer is relational, conversational - real and gritty, not pretty. God considers His and your communication so important that He left nothing to chance. He promised the Holy Spirit would provide all the help you want and need.

*"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we **don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray.** But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words (making prayer out of our wordless sighs - Message). And the Father knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us in harmony with God's will. And we know that **God causes everything to work together for the good** of those who love God . . ."* Romans 8:26-28 NLT. Did you notice that the familiar verse about God working all things for good is connected to the very times when you do not know how to pray or for what you should pray? Who knows what He is wanting to do for you?

My prayer for you today is to be comfortable with God and confident in prayer.

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