

## DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

### *“A Plea for Prayer”*

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:25**

*November 9 – November 15, 2008*

**THE LORD'S DAY** –This week, our text is found in **verse 25** of **1 Thessalonians**. Paul is again in the final verses of this Epistle and his benediction contains a plea for the prayer of God’s people. This week we will look at some specifics from this text as well as some general things concerning prayer for God’s men who He has put in leadership of His people. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:25-28**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.*

**MONDAY** –The verse which is our entire text is very brief and to the point as it reads, “*Brethren, pray for us*”. Paul is speaking on behalf of himself and, Silas, and Timothy. These three men were true men of God, pastors, shepherds of God’s people. They were busy in the work God had called them to do, laying down their lives in sacrificial service for God’s people and preaching of the Gospel to the lost. Paul gives an urgent plea to the Thessalonians which should also be followed in the church today. We notice this prayer is to come from “*brothers*” or those who are of the same family by birth, here the new birth or fellow brothers and sisters in Jesus. In our selfish world which clamors for a preoccupation of our own “needs” and desires, Christians must be aware and be on guard lest they fail to remember the command to be in prayer for their brethren. The Scripture commands such prayer and it is therefore sin to fail to pray for others. Read of the example of Samuel the prophet from the Old Testament in **1 Samuel 12:23**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me not to be so selfish and absorbed with my own life to sin by not praying for other believers.*

**TUESDAY** –This request for prayer in our text is specifically directed at God’s people to pray for Paul and his fellow laborers. Men of God who are in the midst of the battle are in tremendous need of the prayer support of God’s people. Albert Barnes, comments on this passage as follows: “A request which the apostle often makes. He was a man of like passions as others; liable to the same temptations; engaged in an arduous work; often called to meet with opposition, and exposed to peril and want, and he peculiarly needed the prayers of the people of God. A minister, surrounded as he is by temptations, is in great danger if he has not the prayers of his people. Without those prayers, he will be likely to accomplish little in the cause of his Master. His own devotions in the sanctuary will be formal and

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Lord's Day						
Mon						
Tue						
Wed						
Thu						
Fri						
Sat						

**Matthew 6:9-13**

frigid, and the word which he preaches will be likely to come from a cold and heavy heart, and to fall also on cold and heavy hearts. There is no way in which a people can better advance the cause of piety in their own hearts, than by praying much for their minister.” Read **Hebrews 13:18-19**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help me to be a devoted person of prayer and to experience the growth and blessing that comes from a life of intercession.*

**WEDNESDAY** –I will speak from my own heart and mind later this week regarding my request to you for prayer, but again today I would like to share with you the words of another long since dead pastor, John Gill who is also commenting on this verse: “Brethren, pray for us. Which is added with great beauty and propriety, after the apostle had so earnestly and affectionately prayed for them; and this is directed, not to the pastors of the church only, but to all the members of it, whom the apostle styles "brethren" in a spiritual relation, as he often does; and of whom he requests, that they would pray for him, and the rest of his fellow ministers and laborers in the word, that God would more and more qualify and fit them for their work, assist in private studies and meditations, give them freedom of thought, liberty of expression, and a door of utterance, and follow their ministrations with a divine blessing and success, and deliver them out of the hands of unreasonable men.” Read other places Paul asked for the prayers of God’s people. **Ephesians 6:19, Colossians 4:3, 2 Thessalonians 3:1**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help me see the extreme importance of praying for Your work and the men you have called to do it.*

**THURSDAY** –The following quote is taken from an article written for Pastors by Pastor Martin Holdt of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was written for “The Founders Journal” (Founders Ministries, Committed to Historic Baptist Principles). We read of the importance of the minister being a man of prayer, and how prayer is absolutely necessary for this work: “Consider the sobering remarks of John Smith: Prayer is the life and soul of the sacred function; without it, we can expect no success in our ministry; without it our best instructions are barren and our most painful labors idle. Before we can strike terror into those who break the law, we must first, like Moses, spend much time with God in retirement; prayer often gains a success to little talents, while the greatest without it are useless or pernicious. A minister who is not a man of piety and prayer, whatever his other talents may be, cannot be called a servant of God, but rather a servant of Satan, chosen by him for the same reason that he chose the serpent of old because he was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. What a monster, oh God, must that minister of religion be, that dispenser of the ordinances of the gospel, that intercessor between God and His people, that reconciler of man to his Maker, if he sees himself not as a man of prayer.” Read **Acts 6:2-4**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help all the true ministers of Your gospel to be men of prayer. Help them to be disciplined in spending time with You.*

**FRIDAY** –The following is from a sermon by George Whitefield (1714-1770). “You ought, in a more especial manner, to pray for those, whom "the Holy Ghost hath made OVERSEERS over you." This is what St. Paul begs, again and again, of the churches to whom he writes: Says he in the text, "Brethren, pray for us;" and again, in his epistle to the Ephesians, "praying always, with all manner of supplication; and for me also, that I may open my mouth boldly, to declare the mystery of the gospel." And in another place, to express his earnestness in this request, and the great importance of their prayers for him, he bids the church "strive, (or, as the original word signifies, be in agony) together with him in their prayers." And surely, if the great St. Paul, that chosen vessel, that favorite of heaven, needed the most importunate prayers of his Christian converts; much more do the ordinary ministers of the gospel stand in need of the intercession of their respective flocks. And I cannot but in a more especial manner insist upon this branch of your duty, because it is a matter of such importance: for, no doubt, much good is frequently withheld from many, by reason of their neglecting to pray for their ministers, and which they would have received, had they prayed for them as they ought.” Read **Romans 15:30**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, thanks that You are so good and gracious in returning blessing to us through prayer even as we pray in behalf of others.*

**SATURDAY** –I would beg you for your prayers on my behalf. I sin and fail in many ways and need God’s Spirit & power in order to fulfill this ministry He has put me in. I will speak more tomorrow concerning our church body and the need for true intercessory prayer. George Whitefield: “If we inquire, why there is so little love to be found amongst Christians, why the very characteristic, by which every one should know that we are disciples of the holy Jesus, is almost banished out of the Christian world, we shall find it, in a great measure, owing to a neglect or superficial performance of that excellent part of prayer, INTERCESSION, or imploring the divine grace and mercy in behalf of others. Some forget this duty of praying for others, because they seldom remember to pray for themselves: and even those who are constant in praying to their Father who is in heaven, are often so selfish in their addresses to the throne of grace, that they do not enlarge their petitions for the welfare of their fellow Christians as they ought; and thereby fall short of attaining that Christian charity, that unfeigned love to their brethren, which their sacred profession obliges them to aspire after, and without which, though they should bestow all their goods to feed the poor, and even give their bodies to be burned, yet it would profit them nothing.” Read **James 4:1-3**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Father, help us be a people of prayer.*