
Reading: Genesis 18:22-33

***“I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Tim 2:1)***

Every child of God is a priest before Him representing the needs of people. When we forget this, we fail in our primary responsibility. What should we pray for?

First of all, we are to pray for “all” men for their salvation. “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:1,3,4). Our prayers should encompass all men. We should have a global vision. Paul asked in Romans 10:14, “How can they hear without someone *preaching* to them?” On the basis of 1 Tim 2:1,3,4, shall we ask, “How can they be saved without someone *praying* for them?”

Then we are to pray for God’s people for their revival and restoration. The Church that is, is not the Church that was. The Church that is, is not the Church that should be. By and large we are backslidden and have lost the former glory. This is the condition of the majority of the Churches. Five out of the seven Churches of Revelation 2 and 3 were rebuked by Christ. They represent our condition. In the first Church—Ephesus—Christ was in the midst of the candlesticks, but as we come to the last Church—Laodicea—Christ is out knocking for an entrance! The Church does not miss her Lord but continues functioning! “Lord, will You not revive us again?” (Psa 85:6). Joel the Prophet of the last days calls the priests of the Lord to prayers and tears (Joel 1:13;2:17). We have preached, printed and published enough about revival, but not prayed enough for revival. That’s why revival tarries! A sick Church cannot save a dying world. Let revival be the first item in our daily prayer list.

Thirdly, we are to pray for the believers with whom we closely move or work. This may refer to the members of the same local Church or fellowship. “Pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (Js 5:16). Formal greeting and shaking of hands are not enough. Remember your fellow-believers before the Throne regularly. We are not independent but interdependent. We cannot manage with our own prayers. Jesus wanted His disciples to watch with Him in prayer. Paul beseeched the believers to strive with him in prayer. Let’s pray for one another—really, fervently. It is to be noted that the requests in the Lord’s prayer are not for “me” but for “us.”

Almighty God, our Creator,

We worship You for Your love for mankind. We worship You as the perfect Father who makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. We worship You for Your passion that no one should perish but turn to You to receive eternal life through Your Son. We worship You for initiating reconciliation of every man and woman with You through the death of Christ. What love it is, O God, that You made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us!

Father God, we confess that we are not so concerned like You for the salvation of men and women. You have commanded us to offer before You supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks for all men. Forgive us, Lord, for taking this lightly and being selfish in prayer. We repeatedly pray for our own family members but hardly for the hundreds and thousands of people groups in the world. Give us, O Father, the concern Jesus had for the sheep outside the fold. Let that which breaks Your heart break ours too!

Father God, Your Son loved the Church so much that He gave Himself for it. Pour into our hearts, O Lord, the same self-giving love for the local Church and the universal Church. Deliver us from racism and regionalism. Let the Cross of Christ work deeply in us to break down all the walls of partition. Help us follow the example of Jesus our High Priest who prayed not only for His disciples but also for those who would respond to their message. Help us, O God, to pray with tears like Jeremiah and Paul, for the lukewarmness that prevails in our congregations. Send us a revival! Let there be showers of blessing in the Church and the places around!

Father God, we come to You for our fellow-believers. Help us embrace one another as members of the same family. Forgive us our indifference towards the aches and problems of our Christian brothers and sisters. Pour into our hearts a spirit of prayer to uphold before Your throne those who are weak and poor. Restore unity in our midst, O Lord. Help us rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. We are excited that Christ is sanctifying the Church to present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing! Amen, Alleluia!

*(1 Tim 2:1-4; Mt 5:45,48; 18:14; 2 Cor 5:18-21; Jn 10:16; 17:20-23; Eph 2:14-17; 5:25-27;
Jer 9:1; Phil 3:18; Acts 20:19; Ezek 34:26; Rom 12:15)*