

A Personal Prayer Plan

Necessary Principles

Romans 1:8-10

Spontaneous (8)

- The faith of the Christians in Rome was being proclaimed throughout the whole world. In this context:
 1. The whole world does NOT refer to every continent
 2. The whole world refers to the Roman world
 - a. Paul planted churches throughout the Roman Empire and desired to go beyond the Empire to Spain (Rom 15:23)
 - b. Everywhere he traveled he heard about the faith of the Christians in Rome
 3. Two reasons why their faith was widely proclaimed
 - a. All roads led to Rome - it was a major trade center and everyone visited Rome at least once in their lifetime.
 - b. The Roman Christians welcomed travelers, and those accepting Christ went back to their home town and joined the local church.
- The apostle Paul does not thank them, but God for their faith.
 1. He heard a report in one church and responded by thanking God.
 2. He heard a report in another church and responded by thanking God.
 3. Paul responded to each report with a spontaneous prayer
- Application
 1. Don't limit prayer to being a relationship with God
 2. Respond to situations, reports, etc with prayer
 - a. A person comes to Christ -
 - b. A prayer concern is passed on to you -
 - c. Something great happens to you -
 3. Spontaneous prayers will give you an outlook on life through God's eyes.

Consistent (9)

- Paul calls on God as a witness to his prayers
 1. Outwardly it may have appeared that Paul was neglecting the Roman Christians.
 - a. He wrote this letter from Corinth, which put him well into the direction of Rome
 - b. He was collecting an offering from certain churches for the Spanish saints in Jerusalem (Rom 15:25-28)
 - c. He had to bring the offering to Jerusalem quickly
 2. Inwardly God knew that Paul prayed for the Roman Christians *unceasingly* (NIV - *constantly*) - in other words, he consistently prayed for them.
- Application
 1. Consistency in prayer is difficult if you rely on moments
 2. Tools that can aid in helping you be consistent
 - a. Prayer list - make one for yourself
 - b. Prayer cards - put in a visible place
 - c. Prayer signs - put reminders in various places so that you can pray when you are there.
 - d. Prayer moments - for global missions

Persistent (10a)

- There is a difference between how translations punctuate
 1. Some link the word *always* with verse 8, God being the witness of how Paul unceasingly makes mention of them:

God is my witness...that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers (KJV)

2. Some link the word *always* with verse ____, always requesting God to bring him to Rome to see them.

always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you. (NAS)

3. The original Greek text had no punctuation and so the reader has to decide
 - a. I think that *always* does NOT go with verse 9 because it is a repetition of the words *without ceasing*
 - b. I think that *always* DOES go with verse 10 because it singles out a specific prayer that he persistently prays.

●Application

1. God often requires persistency in prayer before He r_____
 - a. The parable of asking, late at night, a friend for three loaves of bread to feed an unexpected guest (Lk 11)
 - 1) The friend will not grant the request because he is his f_____.
 - 2) The friend will grant the request because he is p_____ in asking.
 - b. If we just pray once about a matter, it is often because it really does not matter to us enough
2. God is a h_____ reader not a lip reader (Jer 17:10)
 - a. Persistency reveals our h_____
 - b. Persistency does not guarantee that we will receive what we originally asked (e.g. a million dollars; God to punish a person who wronged us).

Dependent (10b)

- The apostle Paul prayed persistently that God would bring him to Rome, but he wanted it to be in the w_____ of God.

By the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

By God's will the way may be opened up for me to come to you.

1. The word translated as *succeed* (KJV – *prosperous journey*; NIV – *the way be opened up*) is a Greek word that literally means “to be led along a g_____ road.”
2. If we are not in God's will, we are on a b_____ road.
 - a. Paul could have come to Rome instead of going to Jerusalem, but it was not God's w_____
 - b. Paul prayed always d_____ on God's will, not his own, or the will of others.

- So how do we know God's will?

1. We can know it generally by His w_____
 - a. It is God's will that we not s_____ (I Thess 4:3)
 - b. It is God's will that we not hide our faith but let it s_____ (Matt 5:16).
2. God's specific will is revealed in His timing
 - a. We must s_____ it by praying “Thy will be done”
 - b. We must accept it when it is revealed.

Conclusion - prayer is a “heart-to-heart” with God that includes all four of these principles. Put them in your prayer plan and watch what happens!