Pastor's Weekly Devotional- March 20th

We are right now in the heart of the Lenten Season. My subject befitting the occasion is PRAYER.

Here are some biblical instances emphasizing Prayer:

- Jesus was telling the people in a parable that they ought to <u>pray</u> and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)
- "When you <u>pray</u> go into a private room, shut the door, and <u>pray</u> to your Heavenly Father in secret..." (Matthew 6:6)
- "You do not have because you do not <u>Ask</u> (Pray). You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives..." (<u>James</u> 4:2, 3)
- "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by <u>prayer</u> and supplication and thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God..." (<u>Philippians</u> 4:6)
- "You husbands...live with your wives in an understanding way...grant her honor as a fellow heir of grace so that your prayer may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7)
- "Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another..." (James 5:12)
- For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend their <u>prayer</u>" (1 <u>Peter</u> 3: 12)
- "And all things you ask in <u>prayer</u>, believing, you shall receive" (<u>Matthew</u> 21:22)
- "And when Jesus had taken the book...the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the <u>prayers</u> of the saints." (Revelations 5:8)

Prayer after prayer after prayer. The people of God prayed for guidance. They prayed for one another. They prayed alone with others, quietly and fervently each day when oppressed or plagued by illness. They prayed for cleansing of sin or to gain harmony at home, to keep from losing heart or to experience dying grace. In every and any circumstance, prayer was fitting. To face whatever challenge, prayers poured forth. For whatever needs they had, they prayed and prayed and prayed. Like "golden bowls full of incense" those prayers fled earth and filled the throne room of the Lamb of God.

Take a moment and think of your own prayer life. As you do, go back and re-read the scripture verses listed above. Which ones "come alive" for you? Is there any that touches your personal needs? I suggest you look at each verse and think about what principle of prayer is being taught. Consider what God desires to teach you each day through His Word about the intimacies of prayer.

Have a blessed week! See you in church Sunday! Pastor Sewdin