



CREATING A CARING CONGREGATION

(Practicing the "One Anothers" of the Bible)

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

1. Have you considered that Jesus places importance on praying for others? Notice that he prayed for the 12 disciples and every person who would become Christians. (John 17). We are informed by scripture that Jesus continues to intercede or pray for all Christians who are still on earth. (Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8: 34 and I John 2:1)
2. The Holy Spirit, according to Romans 8: 26-27, is interceding, or talking to God, on our behalf. The Holy Spirit shows that praying for Christians is important.
3. Samuel told the sinful people of God that it would be a sin if he would fail to pray for them. (I Samuel 12: 23). Samuel understood that responsibility of his ministry was to pray for others.
4. Notice how often Paul expresses to Christians he writes letters to that he has been and continues to pray for them. (Romans 1: 9-10, I Corinthians 1: 4-5, Ephesians 1: 15-23, Philippians 1: 3-5, Colossians 1: 9-12, I Thessalonians 1: 2-3, 2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12, 2 Timothy 1: 3, Philemon 4-6)

5. Paul Prayed for other Christians, but he also acknowledged he needed them to pray for him, too. (2 Corinthians 1: 8-11, Romans 15: 30-32, Ephesians 6: 18-20, Colossians 4: 3-4)

6. Notice in James 5:16, we are commanded to pray for one another. The "one another" also means each other. We are to pray for each other and all of us need prayer. Neither Jesus nor the Holy Spirit needs our prayers, and Paul is with the Lord, but every Christian on earth stands in the need of prayer.

Suggestions for obeying this command and using it to help create a caring congregation:

- Pray for Pastors, church leaders and teachers by name.
- Make a list of people you will pray for.
- Ask someone you know if there is something you can pray about for them.
- Call someone you know and pray with them over the phone, especially people who are ill and home bound.
- Intercede for others without telling them you are praying. Anything you can gossip about you can pray about.
- Pray for your church congregation as a whole.
- Thank God for Christians who are a blessing in your life.
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit urging you to pray for others.
- Ask other Christians to pray for you.
- Consider getting a prayer partner or starting a prayer group in person or by phone.