



**1 Peter 4:7-11**

*7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

**THE RESOURCE OF PRAYER - COMMUNION WITH GOD**

*The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.*

◆ **Peter knew about facing a crisis without prayer** - Mark 14:32-42, 66-72

**Mark 14:37-42**

*37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." ... 40 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.*

*41 Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"*

◆ **Peter denies Jesus 3 times that night**

**Mark 14:71-72**

71 He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

◆ **Peter knew tremendous difficulties were coming in the end times - Luke 21:5-35**

**Luke 21:5-6, 12-19, 34-36**

5 Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, 6 "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down." ...they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13 This will result in your being witnesses to them. 14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 All men will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By standing firm you will gain life.

...34 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Be always on the watch, and pray** that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

◆ **Prayer is indescribably powerful in preparation for spiritual battle as well as a weapon to wield in the midst of battle**

◆ **Prayer is communion that reveals God's provision, we can ask for our every need**

**Philippians 4:6-7**

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:19**

19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

**1 John 5:14-15**

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us- whatever we ask- we know that we have what we asked of him.

- ◆ **Prayer is communion that invites us into partnership with God's will and purpose in establishing His Kingdom in people's lives**

**Colossians 4:2-5**

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

*"The adversary still contends for earth-rule, and until Christ finally expels all his workings, his conquest is experienced only through warfare. Each believer is a member of an occupational force which has one principal purpose: to enforce the victory of Calvary."*

Jack Hayford, Prayer Is Invading the Impossible

**THE RESOURCE OF LOVING COMMUNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

- ◆ **Love each other deeply**

*The end of all things is near...Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

**Galatians 5:13-15 NLT**

13 For you have been called to live in freedom--not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

- ◆ much more than fond feelings, agape love involves acting on behalf of the other person

*"'Deeply' means 'to be stretched'. True agape love is constantly being stretched to the limit by the demands made on it. This is precisely where agape love shines, because it is not exhausted when it becomes difficult or inconvenient." -- David Walls and Max Anders, Holman New Testament Commentary*

- ◆ **Love each other deeply by offering hospitality**

*Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

- ◆ Hospitality is different than entertaining
  - Entertaining focuses on the host: spotless home, abundant food, well-presented party
  - Hospitality focuses on the guests and their needs: shelter, nourishment, listening ear, sharing a burden...Hospitality is intentional connecting

**Philippians 4:13-14**

13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

*"When two people connect...something is poured out of one and into the other that has the power to heal the soul of its deepest wounds and restore it to health...the greatest need in modern civilization is the development of communities."*

-- Larry Crabb, Connecting

◆ **Love deeply by using your gifts to serve one another**

**1 Peter 4:10-12** *New American Standard Updated Version*

*10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

- ◆ We all have gifts, but they are for others, not ourselves
- ◆ A steward is a slave who owns nothing but manages the property of his master. You are a steward of gifts of grace that God has entrusted you to use in serving others.
- ◆ Take your gifts seriously; manage them well. Don't bury them; invest them in others lives.
- ◆ Exercise your gifts with an attitude of dependence on God



**By Him ... Through us ... For Him**