



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Striving Together in Prayer

Passage: Romans 15:30

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Prayer is not meant to be a shallow routine or casual habit. In Romans 15:30, Paul describes prayer as something we are to “strive” in together. That word speaks of effort, labor, and spiritual struggle. Real prayer is spiritual work. And not only are we called to pray, we are called to pray together. Prayer was never meant to be only an individual practice, but something God’s people engage in collectively. We are not simply individuals who pray, we are meant to be a church that prays.

I. Prayer is Not Easy

Prayer is hard. It is hard to slow down long enough to pray, quiet your mind, and stay focused.

Try to set everything else aside, quiet your heart, and stay engaged in conversation with God, and you will quickly realize that something in you resists it.

The struggle does not mean something is wrong. The struggle means something is happening.

II. Prayer is a Battle

When you pray, you are not just speaking words into the air. You are stepping into dependence on God, shifting your focus away from yourself and placing it on Him. You are bringing your needs, your burdens, your struggles, and your requests before the throne of God.



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There is a spiritual dimension to this life. There is an enemy who would rather keep believers distracted, busy, and self-reliant than dependent on God through prayer because a believer who is not praying is far less effective than a believer who is.

III. Prayer is Meant to Be Shared

“Together with me” reminds us that prayer was never intended to be a completely isolated part of the Christian life.

Prayer was never meant to be a performance.

It is about coming together as a group of people who need God and are willing to seek Him together.

IV. Prayer Changes Things

If we do not truly believe that prayer changes anything, we will never give ourselves to it.

When God’s people truly begin to pray, things begin to happen that cannot be explained any other way.

Conclusion: Prayer is not meant to be casual, passive, or occasional. It is spiritual work. It requires effort, dependence, and persistence. Yet prayer is also one of the greatest privileges God has given His people. Through prayer, we draw near to God, carry burdens together, and experience His power at work in ways we could never accomplish on our own. Paul’s call to “strive together” reminds us that prayer is not only personal, but something believers are meant to engage in collectively. If we are going to be the kind of church God desires us to be, prayer cannot remain an afterthought, it must become a priority.