

**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“Prayer lays hold of God’s plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit’s prayer.”

~Elisabeth Elliot (1926-2015), missionary and author

“He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has heaven and earth at his disposal.... Prayer is the slender nerve that moveth the muscle of Omnipotence.”

“Pray until you can pray; pray to be helped to pray and do not give up praying because you cannot pray. For it is when you think you cannot pray that is when you are praying.... Sometimes when we do not receive comfort in our prayers, when we are broken and cast down, that is when we are really wrestling and prevailing in prayer.... Not to pray because you do not feel fit to pray is like saying, ‘I will not take medicine because I am too ill.’”

“We shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of Christians.... Believe me, if a church does not pray, it is dead.”

“Not for yourself, O church, do you exist, any more than Christ existed for himself.”

~C.H. Spurgeon (1834-1892), famed London preacher

“When you don’t have anything else to preach, preach on prayer.”

~D.J. Cooper, pastor in New London

“The potency of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire; it hath bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt.”

“The Holy Scriptures were not given to us that we should enclose them in books, but that we should engrave them upon our hearts.”

~John Chrysostom (died 407 AD), church leader in ancient Constantinople

“The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.”

~E. M. Bounds (1835-1913), attorney, author, and Methodist minister

**SERMON** – “A Model of Ministry: Prayer, Partnership & Proclamation for the Progress of the Gospel” – *Pastor Don Willemann*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *Romans 1:8-17 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. <sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without

ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God’s will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— <sup>12</sup> that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. <sup>15</sup> So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”