

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

Women's Ministry Leader - Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Reverend Dr. RB Holmes, Pastor

"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"GOD IS ABLE"

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

These verses, found at the end of a prayer by the Apostle Paul, confirm that God is able to answer our prayers. The prayers of the saints never die. ***"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people..."*** (1 Timothy 2:1) Even when we don't know exactly what to say in our prayers, the Holy Spirit intercedes. ***"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."*** (Romans 8:26)

I enjoy reading the prayers of various individuals in the Bible because they are inspiring and indicate the vast ways we can pray. King Hezekiah was a praying man. In Isaiah, Chapters 36 and 37, we have an interesting series of events. In Chapter 36, we learn that his enemy, King Sennacherib of Assyria, attacked Judah. Also, his field commander came with a large army to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem to threaten and taunt him. In Chapter 37, when Hezekiah heard all this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and went into the temple of the Lord. ((Isaiah 37:1) Next, Hezekiah sent his officials to ask Isaiah to pray for them: ***"It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the field commander, whom his master, the King of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God, and that he will rebuke him for the words the LORD Your God has heard. Therefore, pray for the remnant that still survives."*** (Isaiah 37:4) Isaiah answered that the LORD says: ***"Do not be afraid of what you have heard...I will have him cut down with the sword."*** ((Isaiah 37: 6-7) The threats continued with the enemy sending a letter and Hezekiah then goes to the temple of the Lord; spreads the letter out and prays himself. ((Isaiah 37:14)

While it is acceptable to ask others to pray for us, it is vitally important that we learn to pray for ourselves. There is always a word from the Lord addressed directly to you. Listen to Isaiah 37:15-17: ***"And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD. Lord Almighty, the God of Israel enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear Lord and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see. Listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God."*** You will note how specifically Hezekiah presented his request to God.

Our verse for today comes from another beautiful prayer recorded in Ephesians 4:14-21, where Paul prays for the church at Ephesus: ***"For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the LORD's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. And to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*** And the church said, "AMEN!"

Prayer

Our Father Who Art in Heaven,
Holy is Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in
Heaven. We bow in humble submission
to your will. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

How will you respond to today's message?
