

PRAY GIVE GO

become

a part of



EQUADOR 2013

AS WE SEEK GOD'S HEART IN MISSIONS

Pray

Background

- Paul is writing to the church in Rome
- He hasn't met who he is writing to
- Paul is planning to visit them
- First he must bring a financial gift to the church Jerusalem who are being persecuted

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Romans 15:30 -33

³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

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Pray

What I think that we can gain from this text

1. Prayer unites our hearts with other believers
 - This is shown in Paul's appeal for prayer and believers to "strive with him"
 - Keep in mind Paul is separated geographically from those in Rome
2. What we pray for matters
 - Paul makes two request
 - (1) for safety (2) to be received well

Give

Background

- Paul is writing to the Corinthians
- About the church in Macedonia
- Talking about the Macedonian gift to the persecuted believers in Jerusalem
- Paul says they are in extreme poverty
- Also, they have an abundance of joy
- Those two things have overflowed into a wealth of generosity
- They actually begged to give

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,

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2 Corinthians 8:1-9

⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you— see that you excel in this act of grace also.

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2 Corinthians 8:1-9

⁸ I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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Give

Two things to glean from this passage

1. We need to reflect the whole heart of God
 - We don't get to pick and choose what part of the heart we reflect.
2. Our giving to missions is an indication of our heart for missions
 - Paul says this is to test or prove your love is real
 - Jesus was also rich and became poor

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Exodus 4:10-14

¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” ¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

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Exodus 4:10-14

¹³ But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” ¹⁴ Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.”

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Go

- Moses has been called to speak to Pharaoh and lead Israel out of Egypt
- Moses begins his response “but Lord”
- Continues with list of reasons not to go
- God reasons with Moses “who made your mouth, who made people deaf or mute..”
- God still uses Moses

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Go

Like Moses we can resist God's call and I believe we end up in one of two camps

1. God has called you and you decline
 - This may be coming up with reasons not to go
2. You haven't given God the opportunity to call you.
 - Avoid allowing God to stir your emotions
 - This can be routed in fear and distrust of God

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So What?

Doing vs. being

- God is less concerned that we follow a checklist
- God is more concerned we adopt a heart
 - His concerns become ours, his desires become ours, his cares become ours
- God wants us to get the heart behind the action

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE POSTURE!

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So What?

Heart Check questions

- How am I doing with praying for missionaries?
- How am I doing with financially supporting missions
- How am I doing with my willingness to listen to God's voice when or if he calls me to Go?

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