

What are we praying for?

I always felt it, but never heard anyone articulate it; that is, until I was listening to a testimony by Mark Hall from the Christian band “Casting Crowns”. He was talking about the church he’d grown up in, and describing what they prayed for. I’m paraphrasing, but he basically said that they were very blessed, but “Wow”, were they sick. When you thought about their prayer requests, they didn’t have a lot of other needs; they just didn’t want to be sick...or hurt...or anything that would interfere with our comfort.

I don’t think he would say that prayer for the sick is a bad thing – it’s a great thing. Miracles happen every day. That’s not the point. The point is that we have so many needs that go “much” deeper than our physical health and comfort.

A friend recently compiled a list of the things that Paul prayed for – we should take note. When Paul prayed for the Ephesians (Eph. 1:15-21), he prayed that God would give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, that they know the hope of his calling, and know the riches of our inheritance. When Paul prayed for the Philippians (Phil. 1:3-12), he prayed that their love may abound in knowledge and “depth of insight”. For the Colossians (Col. 1:3-14) he prayed that they would have patience and longsuffering with joy! He prayed that they would be fruitful in every good work and increase their knowledge of God. Paul was not “unconcerned” for their physical well-being, he was just much more concerned with their spiritual growth – that they would weep at what makes God weep, and that would find holy what God finds holy.

Our country needs our prayers. Our schools need our prayers. The church needs our prayers. I think we can all feel that “things” are going the wrong way at times – maybe it’s because we’ve stopped praying for those “things”. I was recently reminded that darkness does not overtake light, light overtakes darkness. If we feel that darkness is spreading, it is not because someone is “releasing darkness” into society, it’s because someone is hiding the light.

I covet your prayers for this Sunrise community. Pray that we would understand as a community of believers the eternal significance of what we are doing. Pray that we would not have difficulty filling Emmaus teams and board positions. Pray that new sponsorships would come pouring in (especially the men!). And like Paul, pray that we would be a community that knows the hope of God’s calling; a community where love abounds and together we share the riches of our inheritance. Let us pray...

DeColores!

Matt