

Remnant Life Church  
October 12, 2014

**“Lessons by Paul:  
The Building Blocks of Family Fellowship -  
Part 5”**

Romans 12:12  
(Hebrews 6:13-20)

*Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, **devoted to prayer**. (NASB)*

- The third part of the triangle;
  - We rejoice because we have hope in Jesus
  - Because of that hope we can persevere in tribulation
  - In all of it we stay in an attitude of prayer
- Paul also writes about the attitude of prayer in **I Thess 5:16-18**
  - *Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
  - It is in that time of prayer that we are constantly reminded of our hope and the reason we have it
    - Forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 10:43**)
    - His presence in our lives (**Heb 13:5**)
    - Our promise to be with Him one day (**John 14:3**)
- **Examining Prayer again:**
  - Challenge your perception of prayer
    - My understanding growing up
    - Pray at church, meals, before bed
    - Posture (for a child) but did that ever really change?
  - Prayer, in the biblical perspective, is spontaneous throughout the course of our day
    - There is a structure present but our relationship with Jesus Christ makes it a deeply personal activity not one of duty or mindless repetition
      - Yoga – mantras
        - The purpose of emptying or clearing the mind
        - My heart AND mind cry out to God in prayer
      - God's creation is one of emotion, intellect, and spirit – to remove any one of those is to make us subject to and vulnerable to the enemy
    - True, heartfelt prayer, breaks through forms and structure
  - Consider 5 primary forms of prayer found in the Bible
    - Petition
    - Intercession
    - Adoration

- Thanksgiving
  - Confession
- (I Sam 1:15; Ps 88:1-2, 130:1-2, 142:1-2; Lam 2:19; Matt 7:7-8; Phil 4:6; Heb 5:7)
  - These 5 represent a pouring out of our souls to God from the very depths of our being
- Prayer is often a paradox that we must come to embrace and come to understand:
  - It is the knowledge of our sinfulness which separated us from God while knowing His love for us brings a sense of His presence
  - It is the persistent even aggressive petitions of our hearts while always in a posture of humility and submissiveness
  - It is wrestling with God in the darkness of a trial and resting in the stillness of His promises
  - There is a time to question God and a time to fully submit
  - It is a pleading with God that He will hear us and act on our prayer and a surrender of trust and confidence that He will act in His perfect will and His perfect time
- Devoted to prayer does not mean that is all that I do
  - I am devoted to my wife but I don't spend every single second of the day with her
  - Rather my devotion to her means that everything in my life is effected by that devotion and by her
  - Devoted to prayer means that prayer is a part of every aspect of my life
- But understand that the goal of prayer is not the absorption of our lives into the being of God – that is the teaching of the far-eastern religions and new age philosophy – the goal is the transformation of the world around us, including ourselves, to the glory of God. (Matt 28:18-20)
- We should also desire to see a growth and maturity develop in our time of prayer
  - Contentment, success, and protection alone are the prayers of a young heart
  - These prayers do not stop but we learn to add to them prayers for others; salvation for family and friends, and the extension of the Kingdom of God
- **Revelation 3:20** - *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

## Communion

- The setting is the eating of the Passover meal in remembrance and celebration of the deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egypt
- Our celebration today is our deliverance out of the bondage and death sentence of sin by the death of Jesus and the shedding of His blood
- But our celebration does not end there – it continues with His defeat of death and sin by His resurrection and ascension into heaven
- One more step – He's coming again to take us with Him to paradise

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup>This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matt 26:26-29)*