

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

### FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

Romans 12:12 “. . .faithful in prayer . . .”

322 times prayer is mentioned in the English Standard Version of the Bible. Compare this to such important words as grace – 171 times; mercy – 157 times; forgiveness – 127 times. Prayer is obviously important in God's word. It is important in your life. So much so that the Disciples of Jesus requested Him to teach them to pray which caused Him to teach them the words of what we know today as The Lord's Prayer.

James writes, “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (5:16) Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount taught, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-11) John says we can be confident that God will hear and answer our prayers, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

St. Paul's exhortation here in today's devotional verse is to be “faithful in prayer.” In this instance “faithful” means to be close to God through your prayers. It means to be continuous in your prayers to God. St. Paul echoes these thoughts in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “pray continuously.” (NIV) [King James translates this as “pray without ceasing.”

Martin Luther says prayer is an integral part of the Christian life. He consistently advocated that “prayer be frequent, bold, honest, and forthright.” Your prayers are your heart talking to God's heart. Through the pen of Isaiah God says to you concerning your prayers, “Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.” (Isaiah 65:24)

Prayer: Lord, hear my prayers. In and through the name of Jesus. Amen.

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,  
I know not how to ask or what to say;  
I only know my need, as deep as life,  
And only You can teach me how to pray.

Come pray in me the prayer I need this day;  
Help me to see Your purpose and Your will—  
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;  
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear  
Of human need; O give me eyes to see  
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured,  
My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.  
(LSB 769)