

Preacher's Pen points

Keep the prayers coming people!



Taylor Pickle often accompanies her mom Gail when she comes to clean the building. A couple of weeks ago, while her mom worked, Taylor decided to write something to help me with the bulletin. After thinking for a while, she wrote down the following report about the sick on a piece of paper and slipped it under my door:

“Report! Ms. Martha Felker was clinging to life. Now she is feeling much better and has a bigger chance of living. Keep the prayers coming people! Taylor Pickle just found that she has asthma. Note to Mr. Johnny. I know it’s not much but it’s

I love it! Taylor’s precious note tells me a lot about her (especially since I’ve read not only this message but several others that she has sent our way during Martha’s sickness). She knows and believes that prayer to God is important and effective. Indeed it is!

The Call to Prayer

The NT regularly teaches us the value and importance of praying for one another in a wide variety of circumstances and needs. Paul often urged the brethren in his epistles to pray for him in his work of preaching—that doors for the word would be opened to him (Col. 4:3) and that he would respond to those opportunities by preaching with clarity and boldness (Col. 4:4; Eph. 6:20). He

asked them to pray for his safety and success in his travels (Rom. 15:30-32). Likewise Paul reciprocated by praying that the love and discernment of the disciples would increase (1 Thes. 3:12; Phil. 1:9-11) and that God would preserve them without blame until the coming of the Lord (1 Thes. 5:23).

For Both Physical and Spiritual Needs

In a similar way, James encouraged the brethren to pray for one another in sickness (Jas. 5:14-15), and even more importantly in times of spiritual weakness and sin: “*Confess your faults to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed*” (Jas. 5:16). John prayed for God to bless Gaius, a brother in Christ, with health and prosperity in keeping with the prosperity of his soul (3 Jn 2).

Always!

With such great needs around us, it seems there is never a time when prayers could not be offered up for someone in our spiritual family or even in the world about us. No wonder Paul said, “*Pray without ceasing*” (1 Thes. 5:17). To quit praying is to miss the opportunity to bring blessings to the lives of others and joy to ourselves in seeing God answer those prayers. So, Taylor’s exhortation is an appropriate one!

“Keep the prayers coming people!”

...for Martha, for Taylor, for each other, for all those whose lives will be immeasurably blessed by a prayer of faith. —Johnny Felker