

Do You Need Help?

Many years ago I committed to praying for persecuted Christians through the Voice of the Martyrs ministry. They send out a weekly email with three requests, either for individuals, people groups, villages, etc. One of the requests from last week's email touched my heart, and I think we can all learn from it.

One of the requests was titled "Discouraged Pastors Need Prayer" sharing about many of the pastors in Central Asia. One of the pastors told a VOM frontline worker that he felt lonely and discouraged, and longed for the opportunity to share his feelings and weaknesses with other pastors, but believed they would tell him he shouldn't be sharing his weaknesses with them. How sad!

James 5:16 in the KJV says: "*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*" Some versions say sins or trespasses in place of faults. Satan wants us to feel just like that pastor - lonely, frustrated and discouraged, believing if we show any signs of weakness, others will look down on us.

But God wants us to bring those feelings out of the darkness and into His light, so we can be prayed for, encouraged, healed and set free. Galatians 6:2-3 in the MSG says this: "*Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.*" How can we bear each other's burdens if we don't know about them?!

I have a friend whom I consider my "spiritual soulmate," and even though we are both spiritually mature and have walked with the Lord for many years, we have both gone through seasons of spiritual weakness, and are quick to humble ourselves and ask each other for help to fight whatever battle confronts us. It is so comforting to know you aren't going through whatever it might be alone, that someone is walking with you, helping you bear the burden and win the victory!

We have a wonderful Prayer Team of dedicated men and women who take seriously any and every prayer request, and it has been so rewarding over the years to watch how God has sent answers to our prayers! So here's my question - do you need help carrying a heavy burden? If you do, please consider finding someone you trust and "confess" your need to them. Renowned Pastor A. W. Tozer once said "God waits to be wanted." God is waiting for you to seek help so He can go to work!

I personally love to pray for others because when they receive answers to their prayers, it helps build not only their faith, but mine as well, and it encourages me to continue to pray for others to see what all God will do! Amen!

