

“Praying One Another Through”

Galatians 6:2 tells us to “*Bear one another’s burdens...*” One way we do that is by praying for one another, helping others bear the weight of whatever it is they are going through. When my wife was battling cancer, I could *feel* the prayers of the saints who were praying for us, and I can honestly say it helped us tremendously as we bore the heavy burden we were struggling with - it lightened our load!

Our church, like many others, puts out a weekly list of people requesting prayers, a list which is often added to on a daily basis. There are times when I feel overwhelmed as I take these needs before the Lord, but even as I’m typing this, I’m realizing what’s happening; God is lifting some of the unbearable burdens off of others, and redistributing that weight upon those of us who are interceding - we are literally helping them bear their burdens! Even the apostles experienced this:

In 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 Paul said: “*We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers...”*

Here’s something I started doing recently, whenever someone asks me to pray for them or a loved one - I tell them: “We’re going to pray you (or them) through this!” When I tell someone this, I’m telling them I am going to pray persistently, fervently, and often, not just whenever I think of it, or when it’s the set time to “say my prayers.” By praying someone through, we feel the weightiness of what they’re going through, but we also get to celebrate with them when the victory comes!

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (NIV)
We are meant to take all the burdens we carry, ours and those of others, and lay them at the feet of Jesus, who is always waiting to help lighten our load, give us rest, renew our faith and hope, and give us His peace! Amen? Pray through! Amen!