

DAY 18

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 16

"The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray." —S.D. Gordon

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." Ephesians 6:18-20

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Paul writes these verses immediately after he describes the armor of God. Paul's hands are chained to a Roman soldier. How could he not be aware of the soldiers that rotated into his cell every eight hours. In this setting the spirit of God prompts his mind to focus on what he and the Roman believers desperately need. God's protection and God's power. The Holy Spirit is Paul's source for strength, and boldness. The Spirit's power is unleashed through intentional focus, asking, seeking, and continual knocking. He uses the word ALL, three times. Pray on ALL occasions. Pray ALL kinds of prayer. Pray for ALL the saints.

Do you sense that Paul is being a little too intense in his challenge? Do you hear what I hear. I hear loud and clear Paul say, you don't pray enough. You don't stay alert. You don't keep on praying on all occasions. Paul is intense! Paul desires to awaken us, to arouse us, to heighten intensity. And to fan the flame. Paul desires that we be willing to open our mouths, trust God's Spirit to anoint our lips with words that are gracious, loving, and genuine.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, may we be less distracted, may we be more focused, as you fan the flame of your spirit working in us and through us. May we not be intimidated, to speak the mystery of the gospel to those around us. We request like Paul that we not have a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. Give us a calming presence as we speak the good news. Open hearts to your grace and truth. In Jesus name. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

God, please show how I can reach out to those for whom I pray. Open my eyes to their need, and the opportunities to serve them. Please open their hearts to your truth and peace. In Jesus name. Amen.

REQUEST



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