

Week 13
87/278

Transforming Daily
“... I have prayed for you ...”
Luke 22:32

What sweeter words can be spoken especially in times of trials and tribulation? Is there any better comfort to offer to someone than to tell them you are praying for them and then to do so? How we are drawn to those whom we know are praying for us. How we need each other for this very reason.

It has been the practice of my wife and me from time to time while eating out to ask the waiter or waitress who is serving us if there is anything we can lift to the Lord in prayer on their behalf. Our offer to pray for them has been met with several different responses ranging from some servers abruptly declining our offer to other servers joining us at the table in prayer. The prayer requests from the servers have varied as well, but all requests have had a common theme, and that common theme is something having to do with their personal interest. There have been requests made for their children, parents, spouses, work, school, health, wealth, etc. The practice of asking the server for prayer requests has led some servers to salvation, baptism and church membership.

In Luke's text, Jesus introduces Peter to spiritual warfare. Our Lord actually casts a fore shadow of coming events for Peter's denial of Christ. Peter, who later became a strong leader among the disciples, at this point, faces one of the biggest challenges of his life. However, because of the Lord praying on his behalf, he not only sees the trial through to the other side, but Peter also surfaces victoriously.

The Lord is always offering intercession on the believer's behalf (Hebrews 7:25). Though we may face trials from time to time, through Christ we are victorious in this life and more than conquerors. It is our privilege, responsibility and obligation as believers to lift up one another to the Lord in prayer. Regarding prayer, I often say jokingly to folks, “You need the prayer and I need the practice.”

Is it your practice to pray for others? Are you attentive to those around you enough to know whether there is a specific need for prayer in their lives? A word of caution: if you say that you are praying for someone, make sure that you are praying for them or have done so. There are few things in this life more reassuring than after sharing a prayer need with a brother or sister in Christ hearing them say, “I have prayed for you.”