

POWER OF FERVENT PRAYER

Tonight (Wednesday 01/20, 7:00 pm) we gather in the Holy Ground Cafe' and turn our attention to the book of Acts (12:1-25).

Luke records that King Herod Agrippa had arrested and put James, the brother of John, to death. And, seeing that it pleased the Jews he sought to capture and kill Peter. But, because it was Passover, Herod placed Peter in prison till the feast was over.

While Peter waited to be executed, the church gathered in the home of Mary, John Mark's Mother, to pray for him. Luke records that in that meeting, *"Constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church"* (Acts 12:5).

Whenever God's people are being bombarded, with persecution, from every side, the Holy Spirit inspires them to come together to seek God in prayer. For, He knows that His people are no match for their enemy; but with Him the enemy is no match for them.

The Apostle Paul recognized this when he told the church in Ephesus, *"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:10-12).

So, no matter what the church may face, in the near future, we can rest in this timeless truth, *“If God is for us, who can be against us”* (Romans 8:31)?

One of the many reasons I love Wednesday evening Bible study, is the opportunity it gives to take a break from the chaos of life. To be able to put the schedule aside and to come and enjoy fellowship with the Lord and my fellow believers.

It's very easy to neglect the importance of coming together in worship. There are so many things to do and really a dozen reasons why there's not enough time to come to church.

One Wednesday becomes another and, before you know it, a month or several months have passed by since you last attended.

Jesus recognizes the need for His people to stop what they are doing and to gather with Him and one another. He knows that if we don't take time to come and receive from Him, then somewhere along the line there will be a point of being forced to stop from exhaustion.

In the Gospel of Mark, after Jesus had sent His disciples on a short term ministry trip, they returned to give Him their report. And after they finished He said to them, *“Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while. For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat”* (Mark 6:31).

In the book of Ezekiel, the prophet was told, by God, that even though his people had been taken captive and scattered throughout the world that He, the LORD, would be a “*Little Sanctuary*” (Ezekiel 11:16) for them. A place dedicated for them to come and receive ministry. A place to come to hear and receive from Him.

That is how I view Wednesday evening Bible study. A sanctuary dedicated for the expressed purpose of the church family to come aside from their labor and to hear and receive from the Lord.

For those who are unable to attend, the live stream of the service (Facebook: *Calvary Inverness*) is available. You may not be with your church family, in person, but you will still be able to participate in all that God is able and willing to do.

Until He Comes,
Pastor