

Month of Opportunity

This is a month of opportunity. Actually every month is a month of opportunity. So what we have is a recognition that we have opportunities out there. There is no official church program for the month of opportunity, just the recognition that if an opportunity comes up – we are to take it. Make sense?

Ok let me define it a bit. This month the preaching will be about taking whatever opportunities are presented to us to minister, mission, evangelise, care for, encourage on behalf of the kingdom of God.

By preaching on these topics, the idea is for us to have some thought process about how God can use us and have it at the front of our minds. It may be new teaching, old teaching, something you haven't thought about or maybe something you have always known, but because it is mentioned, it is refreshed in our brain.

So today we are looking at an opportunity that we all have every day. Sometimes we take it, sometimes we don't.

The opportunity to pray.

Grab you bibles etc.

Colossians 1:3-10

We will work through some things from this passage.

Col 1:3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, praying always for you.

Ok here we go.

1. Here we have **the opportunity to accept prayer given for us.**

What do I mean by that.

I have been off sick. I have been totally aware of the prayers of many of you. How? Well I can't really describe how. I know that many have sent cards or messages and said that you are praying yet there has been this sense that people are praying, that there has been something spiritual happening within my life.

We need to be praying for each other and knowing that there are people praying for us. We need to say – I have been praying for you, we need to be promising to pray for each other.

Here is the thing, we not only need to do it, we need to accept it. So thank you.

2. The opportunity to pray together.

Notice in these verses the “we” that Paul uses.

V3 – We give thanks

V4 - we have heard about your faith

V9 -we have not stopped praying for you

Prayer is a great tool. It is personal and yet it is corporate.

Paul had a prayer team, Paul had a group of people that prayed with him and for him.

Here is the thing: we have very little corporate prayer. As I said in my AGM report we have prayer before worship on Sunday mornings, I would love to see prayer facilitated before each program. I know Youth Group and Playtime / Mainly Music do this, and maybe we are seeing some blessing through the willingness to place God before each program that is part of the effectiveness of these programs.

So let's make opportunity to pray together. Find ways, invite someone else to pray with you, do it today.

3. Opportunity to pray specifically.

Notice Paul's prayer in v 9

Col 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about this, we have not stopped praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the full knowledge of God's will with respect to all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Paul and his team are praying for the Colossians spiritual development!!!

Now here is something, While I have really appreciated your prayers for my physical health, please, please, please –1stly, keep praying for me

2ndly, pray specifically that I keep developing spiritual that I can have wisdom and understanding.

Don't stop praying now!!!

Keep looking, now at v10:

Col 1:10 so that you might live in a manner worthy of the Lord and be fully pleasing to him as you bear fruit while doing all kinds of good things and growing in the full knowledge of God.

Do we pray for people this way? Usually, we pray for people to get better and that is totally valid, or we pray for people to be able to handle crisis, yet Paul prays for people to draw closer to God, to spiritually develop, to find and use their abilities and gifts for God.

Here's the opportunity for us. Pray specifically for people to grow closer to God. Every one. Pray that for me, for the deacons, for the Elders, for kids in Kids Church and youth group and playtime. I am not saying that you don't do this, some of us do but I am asking you to be specific.

Now within this, I had an experience while I was off sick. I couldn't read or watch TV too much because I wasn't well enough but I could and did listen to music. I listened to all sorts of music and one of the Sunday mornings while you were here and I was at home alone I listened to a Vince Gill album.

There is this one song called when My Amy prays. It is about his wife praying. His wife is Amy Grant.

It talks about her praying and how it was different from his spiritual experience. In an introduction to it that I watched later Vince talks about how Amy grew up in an environment of going to church and never missing, while he grew up and never went, he knew about. Jesus but didn't know Jesus.

Have a listen – [When my Amy Prays – Vince Gill](#)

Now, who does that for you? Well my wife does, my parents do? You guys do?

But what I had to confront at home by myself was – [Who do I that for?](#)

Whose Amy am I? Do we get it? Here is an opportunity for prayer. Right now.

Feel free to ask someone else to pray for you, ask them to be your Amy.

I would ask that people give each other the space and respect to be able to ask someone to pray with and for them. Please move off to the hall for morning tea if you choose not to be involved or choose to participate differently.