

Sunday, April 23, 2017
Did You Know?

Enlisting Others to Pray

Every once in a while I come across a story of a person that is suffering from a grave illness like leukemia, and what they need is a donor, someone who can be a match. Other times it's the story of a young child who is very sick and dying. The story goes viral in a small way, through social media -- a friend of a friend of a friend's daughter is dying, so they ask for prayer, I read their blogs, and I join in prayer and suffering alongside them.

If you're a Christian, then you share something in common with other Christians. Someone, perhaps many people, prayed for your salvation. You are not a Christian because you're so smart and wise and you made the right choices. You, also, were a lost, hell-bound sinner and someone prayed for you. God answered those prayers and you are what you are today because of that. There's something else we share in common. We all have people very close to us who are not-yet Christians. They may have wandered from the faith they once knew. They are lost in their sin. They may not even know that God loves them. They may not be aware that they will be judged by a holy God. They may not know that all the fullness and riches of God's blessing await them in this life and the next.

Therefore, we need to pray -- we ourselves need to pray for them, but we must also ask others to pray with us for them. If your child was sick in hospital, you would keep a vigil at her bedside, speaking to her, reassuring her, comforting her; you would be in constant prayer, and you would ask others to pray with you. Join with me in entering into a season of focused prayer (and even fasting) for our not-yet-Christian friends and family. Be like the Christian brother who recently sent out an email to his friends asking that they join him in prayer for his non-Christian friend. Enlist your friends to pray. Set reminders on your phone and add names to your prayer list. Just pray, and plead with God Almighty for their souls. Here are some prayers you can pray:

1. Lord, have mercy on _____.
2. Lord, draw _____ to yourself.
3. Lord, save _____.
4. Lord, stir up spiritual hungers in _____.
5. Lord, help _____ to see his/her sin.
6. Lord, help _____ to respond to your Gospel.
7. Lord, give me the opportunity to share Christ with _____.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Peter