

SERIES: The Basics of the Church
TITLE: A Prayer Dependent Church
TEXT: 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

I. Prayer is the Way We Entrust Our Circumstances to God (2 Cor 1:8-10)

- Now – this is not a pity party that Paul is trying to create...
- Paul knew there would be suffering.
 - Paul knew what it meant to take up his cross daily and follow Christ...
 - From the moment of his conversion, Jesus had told him that he would suffer...
 - Acts 9:16
 - In 2 Cor 11:23-28
- All of these things, combined, repeatedly, have the lead the apostle to say...
 - The imagery of these words is like a ship that is riding low in the water because of its own weight.
 - Or an animal that falls under its own load and can't get up.
- Paul says – we received this sentence of death – we ended up experiencing all these situations because God wanted us to learn to **depend** on Him.
 - Paul says “we should not trust in ourselves...”
 - “but in God which raiseth the dead”
- BTW, First Baptist Church of Wixom must be a Church which doesn't trust in itself, in our skills, or abilities, or buildings, or finances... but in God who raises the dead...

- How do you move from the position of “TRUSTING IN YOURSELF” to a posture of “TRUSTING IN GOD”?
 - **Prayer.**
 - **The things we don't take to God in prayer, are the things that we think we can handle in our own strength.**
 - When Paul wrote the Thessalonians...
 - 1 Thess 5:17 - **Pray without ceasing** - he meant it
 - When Paul wrote the Ephesians about the spiritual armor...
 - Eph 6:18 - **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit** – was not a suggestion.
 - When Paul told the church in Rome
 - Rom 12:12 – [be] **continuing instant in prayer** – he knew it was for their benefit
 - The apostle knew that constant PRAYER was the key to living a life dependent upon God...
 - **Why should we want to trust in God and not ourselves?**
 - Can you raise the dead this morning?
 - Do you have the power to overcome every situation you face in life?
 - **CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING THIS MORNING?**
 - **Are you going to make prayer your steering wheel for life or keep in hidden away for emergencies?**

2 Cor 4:7-9: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed...

2 Cor 12:9-10: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that **the power of Christ** may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

II. Prayer is the Way We Entrust Other's Circumstances to God (2 Cor 1:11)

- Paul connects the prayers, of the church in Corinth (see quality of Corinth in 1 Cor) with deliverance.
- When God's people are together, and they are praying for God's will and work – things happen. Because we dare not trust ourselves.
 - What should I pray for someone else? Pray for focus, hope, love,
 - Analyze your prayers; do you pray more for things for others than for yourself?
- **All through human history, God's people have been a people of prayer...and when God's people prayed, God worked...**
 - Abraham prayed for a son; God gave him a nation like the sand of the sea.
 - Moses prayed for forgiveness of the nation, and God granted it.
 - Joshua prayed, and the sin of Achan was expelled.
 - Gideon prayed for victory with 300 men, and defeated the Midianites
 - Elijah prayed on Mt Carmel, and God send fire from heaven.
 - Hannah prayed, and Samuel, a spiritual guide to Israel was born.
 - Daniel prayed, and the lions mouths were shut.
 - Jesus prayed, and the Father's will was accomplished.
 - The apostles prayed, and God sent the Holy Spirit.
 - Stephen prayed, and the one overseeing his death wrote most of the NT.
 - The early church prayed, and the Gospel spread over the known world.
 - Paul and Silas prayed, and the church in Philippi was born.
 - Martin Luther prayed, and the Reformation happened.
 - John Knox prayed, and Scotland repented.
 - Charles Wesley prayed, and millions came to faith in Christ.
 - George Whitefield prayed, and the First Great Awakening happened.
 - Hudson Taylor prayed, and the China Inland Mission began, taking the Gospel to Asia.
 - George Mueller prayed, and more than \$7m dollars were sent to feed thousands of orphans.
 - Auntie Cook prayed, and DL Moody was used to preach to over 100m people.
 - My grandmother prayed, that I would be of any way useful to the Lord.

What will be said of us? The people of First Baptist Church of Wixom prayed, and God...

- I don't know specific what God might do.
- But I think I could echo Paul in Eph 3:20...