

## **On The Road To Emmaus**

If we are honest, a lot of Christians see prayer as a duty, not something to be enjoyed. A lot of Christians see prayer as the last option, well we have tried everything else, we might as well pray about it. Nothing else is working, can't we just move on? What a chore! So, what is one of the marks of a vibrant, healthy and yes enjoyable prayer life?

The apostle Paul in Colossians 1:9 tells us *"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,"* Paul is saying, he was not just sitting in a room somewhere waiting for the Holy Spirit to drop something into his mind. Rather, he had knowledge of what was going on. It was information that prompted Paul to pray. Part of the reason we struggle with prayer is that we are not informed. The result being we do not know how or what to pray.

I think that many times we do not want to know what others are struggling with. Note what Solomon said: *"The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth."* (Eccl 7:4 ESV) The wise want to be where the hurting are. However, the fool thinks of only their own pleasure and happiness. Truly ignorance is bliss for the fool. The end result is that life for us in the house of mirth becomes prayer-less and empty.

So what does it meant be informed? It means being sensitive to the needs of others. What are the struggles of our spouses, children and those whom we worship with? What struggles are our neighbors and acquaintances dealing with? If we know their struggles, we can pray for them but if we live in the house of mirth we will have no clue.

To be informed means to ask questions. Questions like, how is your walk with God going? How is your quiet time with God? How are you handling temptation? We must be sensitive and willing to ask questions so that our prayer life is informed.

Are your prayers informed or are they filled with specific generalities?

## **A Fellow Traveler**