Wall of Prayer

Dear Faithful Prayer Warriors,



We step out of the world and into the throne room of God when we enter our prayer closet. Out of the impossible and into the possible. We voice our prayers to our Father, in the name of His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit—three unique persons in One God, living in perfect love and unity while acting in very different roles. We come with hope as loved members of His family. And, though we are all very different, God wants this same loving "oneness" for His children. "How good and pleasant it is for brothers to live together in unity." (Ps. 133)

In His final week, Jesus prayed to the Father for His followers and for those who would believe through their message, "that all of them would be one...that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are one...so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that You sent Me."¹ The unity of Jesus' disciples, who were very different, was a testament to the transforming power of Jesus. We are those for whom Jesus prayed, those who have "believed through their message," and who are being transformed by His very Spirit in us. In a world that is so deeply divided, Christians are to be a model of unity, we are to be "one" as Jesus and the Father were one, to love as we have been loved by our Savior. Our flesh, the world and the enemy make this very difficult, as seen in broken homes, broken friendships and divisions in the church. Paul admonishes believers in Colossae to put off, among other things, anger, wrath, malice and lying to one another. Further, "as <u>God's chosen</u> people, <u>holy and dearly</u> loved," they were to clothe themselves with "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." They were to "bear with each other and forgive" if any had "a grievance against another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Over all these virtues they were to "put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."² And, to the church at Philippi Paul reasons, if there is any encouragement in being united with Christ, any comfort in His love, any common sharing in the Spirit, "make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one spirit and of one mind, do nothing from selfish ambition, rather, in humility, value others as above yourselves. In relationships with one another have the same mindset as Christ–God Himself–Who, as Paul then elaborates, humbled Himself to become a man, a servant who was obedient to the point of dying a criminal's death.³

We are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, we have the love of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We have been forgiven so much. Jesus suffered and died a gruesome death, covering our many sins with His precious and perfect blood. Yet do we enter our prayer closets knowing we have hurt someone or have been hurt by another causing an unresolved schism? Is there resentment and bitterness that have kept you from going to your now enemy in hopes of reconciliation? Jesus commands us to "love one another as I have loved you." We are given a clear picture of love—it is patient and kind, it doesn't envy or boast, it isn't proud or self-seeking. It doesn't dishonor others; it is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preservers. Love never fails.⁴ I am praying for our personal conviction, repentance and submission to God's will in the power of His Spirit, bringing unity in our relationships; that we may be renewed and that the impossible may be made possible in our prayer closets. God be glorified before a watching world and the entire angelic realm!

In Him, Maan Susan Admire

¹ John 17:20-23

² Colossians 3:8-14

³ Philippians 2:1-11

⁴ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

[&]quot;Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee." 2 Chr. 14:11