

## **This We Believe – Prayer is Crucial**

September 19 & 20, 2009

Some of what the Apostle Paul experienced...

***I have...been put in prison...whipped times without number...faced death again and again...five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes...three times I was beaten with rods...once I was stoned...three times I was shipwrecked...once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea...I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. ...I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.***

2 Corinthians chapter 11 verses 21 - 27 (888)

Paul asked others to pray that he would be bold

***Pray for me. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. Ephesians chapter 6 verse 19 (898)***

- What responsibilities has God given you in life that you need boldness in right now?
- Where do you need boldness so you can be obedient to God?
- What are you not currently doing now because of fear (lack of boldness)?

Paul asked others to pray for his rescue

***Pray that I will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to obey God.***

Romans chapter 15 verse 31 (868)

- Where are you facing active resistance?
- What is the one thing that God is asking of you that brings you most resistance?
- What do you need to be delivered from in life?

Paul asked for prayer because he knew it was his power in life

***I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. Philippians chapter 1 verse 19 (899)***

- What part of your life is God asking you to stop trying to fix on your own?
- What area of your life is God asking you to humble yourself in by asking for prayer?
- What will that part of your life look like when it is taken over by the power of God?

Paul lived a powerful life because of the prayers of others

***You are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety. 2 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 11 (882)***

- How different will your life be when God graciously answers the prayers of so many on your behalf?

Next Week: We kick-off our new study, "No More Excuses"