

Join us in being on mission with God!

**OUR VISION**

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

## "Preemptive Praying"

Romans 15:30-32

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Pastor Jim  
August 8, 2010

### A. Why preemptive prayer is important. [3 reasons]

❶ WE ARE IN A CONFLICT TOGETHER. (30) "join me in my struggle by praying to God for me"

▶ See 2 Timothy 3:12 ; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

❷ WE SHARE A COMMON CONFESSION. (30) "urge you... by our Lord Jesus Christ"

❸ WE'RE CALLED TO REFLECT A SPIRIT-GIVEN LOVE. (30) "urge you...by the love of the Spirit"

### B. How to pray preemptively.

❶ ASK FOR PROTECTION IN SPIRITUAL INITIATIVES (31) "rescued from the unbelievers"

❷ ASK FOR OPENNESS TO NEW IDEAS (31) "service...may be acceptable"

❸ ASK FOR JOY IN SERVING CHRIST'S PURPOSES (32) "I may come to you with joy"

### Action Steps:

- Pray for a hunger to bring glory to Jesus in all things.
- Identify your Jerusalem.
- Make a spiritual contribution to a conversation, a blog, or a Facebook post
- Ask God to give us each a spirit to experiment, take risks, try new methods.



## Romans 15:30-33

<sup>30</sup> I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. <sup>31</sup> Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, <sup>32</sup> so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. <sup>33</sup> The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

## To Consider

This weekend Pastor Jim reminded us that sometimes we don't pray for the ministry of our church until there is trouble, difficulty, or major problems. The early church discovered how to be more proactive in their prayers. In Romans 15 Paul looks forward to the future and asks for preemptive prayers.

1. This prayer is preceded by Paul's discussion of his future plans. List some of the ministry initiatives he anticipates in Romans 14:14-29.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe examples of some of the kinds of plans or goals that were preceded in prayer in scripture. What difference do you think preemptive prayer made?  
Esther 4:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Nehemiah 1:5-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 26:36-38 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 13:3 \_\_\_\_\_
3. How does Ephesians 6:12 remind us of the need for prayer in our efforts to advance Jesus' kingdom?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Paul's prayer for protection was answered in an interesting way. What did God do that Paul may not have anticipated? (See Acts 23:10; Acts 23:16-18.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How do the following verses encourage you to precede action by prayer in a challenge that's before you?  
Isaiah 45:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Exodus 23:23 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What challenge is God calling you to tackle *first* in prayer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Paul's prayer in verse 31 reminds us that sometimes Christians can object to change even when it's from God. We can resist new methods or strategies. We may not want to abandon something comfortable or familiar. The mission and the word are eternal, but other things may change. **Circle** the changes below that would be toughest for you. Discuss why you might resist change.  
Worship Styles    Church bylaws    Order of Worship    Changing programs for kids  
Service Times    Mission statement    Preferred translation    Changing women's programs  
Small group curriculum    Adult curriculum    Changing men's programs  
Visual appearance in or outside the ministry center
8. Share how prayer can help a fellowship of believers deal with the changes that God brings to a growing church.  
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