

WRESTLING
WITH GOD

Colossians 4:12-13 KJV Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. [13] For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

**Prayer Is
Hard Work**

- **Laziness hinders prayer.**
- **Unspiritual attitudes hinder prayer.**
- **Carnal lifestyles hinder prayer.**
- **Spiritual warfare hinders prayer.**

- **Because spiritual warfare is unrelenting, we must pray.**
- **Because the days are evil, we must pray.**
- **Because revival demands it, we must pray.**
- **Because our families are protected by it, we must pray.**
- **Because spiritual authority comes through it, we must pray.**

Because it is a powerful weapon, we must pray.

Prayer is hard work!

**We cannot simply decide to pray, we
have to pray!**

We must labor in our praying.

Andrew Murray -- The Ministry of Intercession
We have far too little conception of the place of that intercession, as distinguished from prayer for ourselves, ought to have in the Church and in Christian life. In intercession our king upon the throne finds His highest glory too. Through it He continues His saving work and can do nothing without it. Through it alone we can do our work, and nothing avails without it. . . where. . . we work more than we pray, the presence and the power of God are not seen in our work as we wish.

Arthur Mathews -- Born For Battle

Prayer was never meant to be incidental to the work of God.

It is the work of God.

In all work for God, prayer is the working power of all that God could do through His people.

- **One of you.**
- **A servant of Christ.**
- **Always labouring fervently in prayer for you.**
- **He has great zeal for you.**
- **He has great zeal for the churches in Laodicea and Hierapolis.**

- **It means to struggle, to fight, to strive.**
- **Literally it gives the connotation of competing for a prize.**

Figuratively it means to contend with an adversary.

Agon.

This word indicates that there is a location, a place, a setting where a battle is going to take place.

- It was a place of contention that contorted the spirit.**
- It was a place where conflict overwhelmed its participants.**
- It was a place of anxious effort that pulled at the mind.**

- **Wrestling in prayer will cost you sleep.**
- **Wrestling in prayer will consume some tears.**
- **Wrestling in prayer will demand that you change.**
- **Wrestling in prayer will leave you in great loneliness (much is accomplished in private prayer).**

Wrestling in prayer will set you apart from the world, from your friends, and from your creature comforts.

It is a verb, and it gives the indication that one is lead, pushed, driven, forced, induced, or carried to.

There is that impelling pull of the force of prayer that can bring us to that place of wrestling in prayer!

- **Some say, ‘where are the miracles?’ I ask where is the agon.**
- **Some say, ‘where is the power?’ I ask where is the agony in prayer.**
- **Some say, ‘where are the signs?’ I ask where are the olive presses of sacrifice?**
- **Some say, ‘where is God?’ I answer, ‘He has been forsaken in the agon of prayer.’**

If we are to be effective in prayer, it probably will be ushered in by an emotion that we may not want to embrace.

**Where Are The Modern Day
Epaphras'?**

Prevailing apostles produce prayer warriors.

**Prayerless pulpits will produce prayerless and
powerless congregations that will be overrun
with carnality and worldliness.**

Andrew Murray -- The Ministry of Intercession

He looks to the thousands of young men and young women in training for the work of ministry and mission, and gazes longingly to see if the Church is teaching them that intercession, power with God must be their care, and in seeking to train the believers of their congregations into those who can “help together” by their prayer, and can “strive with them in their prayers.” As Christ-seeks the lost sheep until He finds it, God seeks intercessors.

- **Shall we find that all our great prayerful leaders are now in the grave?**
- **Is there a fresh crop of Smith Wigglesworth's coming in our direction?**
- **Will there be another A.W.Tozer that will fill the role of prophet in my generation?**
- **Will there be a man who can go through the valleys of life necessary to shoulder the mantle of a Dave Wilkerson?**
- **Will there be a young man among us that will preach like Leonard Ravenhill?**

***E. M. Bounds -- Power Through Prayer –
Where are all the Christian leaders who can
teach the modern saints to pray and put them
at it?***

***Where are the Apostolic leaders who can put
God's people to praying.***

If we are to see some of these same things in our generation, it will be because we spend much time “wrestling” in prayer.

- Where are those who will “wrestle” in prayer?**