

Prayer is an act of Sacrifice and Labor

"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land, so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one." – Ezekiel 22:30 NIV

"Prayer does not prepare us for the greater work, it is the greater work" – Oswald Chambers

"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he (Jesus) departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed." – Mark 1:35 ESV

As pointed out in the devotion on prayer and spiritual warfare, we face serious consequences when we choose to "stand in the gap" for others, especially for the nations. There is a spiritual price to pay but also a price paid in time and effort – something else is put aside to make room for prayer. Sometime that something else is trivial, but there are times when we must forgo work, sleep, eating, or quality time with friends and family to pray. Busyness is an especially modern distraction (and too often an excuse), yet Jesus found it necessary to retreat and pray BEFORE engaging in ministry. How can we do less? How else can we know the Father's heart at all unless we are in communication with Him?

Prayer is not easy work! Prayer is serious work! It is not a natural desire of our flesh to spend early morning hours or all night in prayer, especially praying for those we do not know but the reward can be great - *"Ask of me and I will surely give the nations as your inheritance"* (Ps 2:8). We have had the opportunity all week to pray for the nations. Did you take time to do so? Will God look again and find no one willing to stand in the gap?

PRAYER FOCUS: The focus today is on the sacrifice and labor of prayer. What are you willing to sacrifice to pray for the nations? What are you NOT willing to sacrifice to pray for the nations? Are you willing to stand in the gap and pray for peoples you do not know and may never meet this side of heaven?

PRAYER: Abba, tune our hearts and minds to what is on your heart. Let us not be found wanting when you search for those standing the gap. Lord, we ask for the nations to come to You! Let us see this inheritance come to pass! Let our prayer not be so much a sacrifice and a labor but an offering and joy, spending time with You to know You and knowing how to make You known. In the Name of Jesus, Amen!

1. Prayer is an act of faith - Alex
2. Prayer is an act of obedience - Sean
3. Prayer is an act of worship - Jeff
4. Prayer is an act of warfare - David
5. Prayer is an act of sacrifice / 6. Prayer is an act of labor - Steve
7. Prayer is an active of love -