The Letter To The Hebrews Ask Others To Pray For You Hebrews 13:18-19

Introduction

If you had a need — how quick would you be to ask others to pray for you? What would make you hold back from asking?

In today's passage the author asks his readers to pray for him — and we should follow his example.

What is he asking them to do? (v.18)

He's asking them to pray for him and his associates.

Prayer means talking to God.

- Even though we are guilty of sin, the reason we can talk to God is because we trust Jesus, whose death paid for all our sin.
- Whenever we talk to God, relying on Jesus for our forgiveness, God gladly and enthusiastically hears us.

What reason does he give for why they should pray for him? (v.18)

It's because he and his associates have a clear conscience and desire to honor Christ. This does not mean they were perfect; it means they were not stubbornly holding to sin. So how would this motivate the readers to pray? Commentators offer lots of possibilities, but I don't think we know enough to be sure.

What exactly is he asking them to pray for? (v.19)

He wants them to pray that he can be restored to them sooner. That means something is keeping from getting back to them as soon as he'd like. And he's longing for God to intervene so he can return more quickly.

Why does he *earnestly* ask them to pray for a sooner return?

Because he knows that if they will pray, that could move God's heart to grant him a sooner return than if he just prayed on his own.

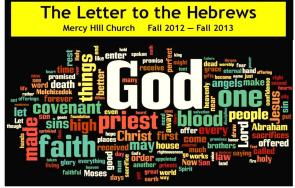
When we pray on our own — God's heart is powerfully stirred to work — maybe 100 megatons' worth.

But when others join us in prayer — God's heart is even more powerfully stirred — maybe bringing it to a total of 115 megatons.

That's why Paul asks others to pray for him.

That's why the author of Hebrews does the same.

So — grow in asking others to pray for you.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What holds you back from asking others to pray for you?

Is it possible to do this too often? Are you on the "too often" or on the "not often enough" side? How could you tell?

Do you agree that God's heart is stirred to act even more when others join us in praying? Why or why not?

Why do you think God might choose to have his heart be even more stirred when more people pray about something?

Are some prayer requests appropriate to share with only certain people? Which ones? Why?

What's one crucial way we can be praying for you this week?

