

Romans 15: 30-32

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SUBJECT: Agonizing in Prayer

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(GF)

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## Agonizing in Prayer.

ἀγωνίζω. Here, Rom. 15: 30 "strive"  
Col. 4: 12 "labouring fervently"

The struggles of Paul's life  
soreness of heart  
breathing in spirit

And now pleading for prayer  
"for the two years Christ sake  
for the love of the spirit" } that an argument  
every word pleads with tears

Even our Lord sought sympathy in Gethsemane  
Mat 26: 38 "sweat, not with me for one hour?"  
So we carry to Andrew Fuller "you held the ropes while  
'I go down into the pit."

So many hands stayed up by Aaron and Hur.

His appeal to friends, Brethren, unknown Christians.  
Entrusted -> Rom. 16: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, etc. to pray for him.  
What did Paul do when his spirit greatly oppressed? much  
appeal to these humble, unknown people, that they strive...

The power of prayer of simple people.

James 5: 16  
(2) One old lady at Palau Thabo said: "all I can do is pray."

⊕ The agonizing is prayer.

"with me" - be the first agonizer  
than they

Why prayer a striving? Involve so much <sup>difficulty</sup> <sup>any kind</sup> suffering

A struggle against God? God withhold His gift as long as possible? Must be wrong from Him? God made to relent?

No. God is liberal. James 1:5; H. 11:9-13

Our striving, agonizing, struggle, occasioned by

(1) Satan

Our prayer is the target against which Satan directs his best, most numerous arrows.  
Eph. 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh & blood..."  
"symbolizes all he can"

(2) Our carnal nature which is "enmity against God"  
Rom 8:7; "For the flesh lusteth against the spirit..." Gal 5:17  
So God wrestled with Jacob Gen. 32:24-32

(3) The rush of the world

Too busy,  
"you occupy  
not is Christ  
later on  
when have finished this

Why all the time Ps 46:10 "Be still and know..."

(4) This West magazine. The old man who dropped into the little country church in the English village. Sit, silent, "Why don't you kneel, say five prayers?" "The good God is here; we don't say here. That is enough for us folk."

Paul's request in prayer:

- ① 15: 31 a. "deliver me from them who do not believe."
  - ② 15: 31 b. "acceptor of the saints..."
  - ③ 15: 32 "may come unto you with joy"
- Jews who hate  
Christ. Judaisms  
who hate him.

How God answered

The terrible beating in the Temple  
The year of imprisonment in Caesarea  
Came to Rome in chains.

But -

The people in Caesarea surrounded  
- - - Praetorium present

The Epistle (prison)  
Before Caesarea himself.

(a) "The way of the Lord" Prologue of Paul, Feb, 1858

*The Ways of the Lord . . .*

**T**HIS WAS scribbled almost a century ago by an anonymous soldier of the Confederacy:

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve — I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for help that I might do greater things — I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy — I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life — I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for — but everything I had hoped for.

Despite myself, my prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed!

— Contributed by Oren Arnold