

• TRANSCRIPT

• August 9th 2026 "Epaphras – The Servant Who Strived In Prayer"

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- You you The world is a very important part of the world. The only thing that I can do is to take a look at the people who are not in the same place, and I think that's a great thing. You you and what a blessing! So good to see Dominic and Cassidy. Good to see, Catherine, and how my dad, we didn't get to see them anymore. Word of life. Yeah, that's good. Okay. If you have your Bibles, if you could please, please turn to Colossians, Colossians chapter four, and what a blessing. And here, as we look at Colossians chapter four, we're towards the end of this epistle.

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Colossians Chapter 4. I want to thank those who are watching by internet. We ask the Lord to always bless you and may you grow in your spiritual life and may God meet all your needs. Again, if you could please stand if you're able to. Colossians chapter 4, beginning in verse 12. The Bible says, Epaphias, who is one of you? A servant of Christ, saluteth you always, laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him record that he had great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea and them in Herb-- Hippopolis, excuse me, let's pray. Father, we thank you. For all the blessings you give us. We thank you for working in our lives. Even in our trials, Lord, you are there helping us. And Father, I ask you now that you would use this message to speak to each and every one of us.

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And Father, again, help us to continually pray. For one another and pray for those things that we need, people who are sick. And Father, thank you that we have the opportunity to come boldly before your throne in the time of need. And Father, thank you for that. And I ask all this in Jesus' name, amen. Where you could be seated at this time. And we're looking at one name, Epaphrius. And here we see Epaphrius, the servant who strived in prayer. And as we look here, there are many unsung heroes of the faith, but this one I want you to look at the example of such a man, a man who had a zeal. For people, and who was what? We consider a prayer warrior. His name is Epaphrius. He's only mentioned three times in the Bible, twice here in the book of Colossians, and one in Philemon. But here we find in the book of Colossians, we see right from the beginning the Apostle Paul. If you turn to Colossians chapter 1, look what the Apostle Paul says of Epaphrius in verse 7. He says, As ye also learn of Epaphrius, our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ.

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And as you look into Epaphrius' life, you see that he was the one who was instrumental in bringing the gospel to the city of Colossae. Here, the Apostle Paul never went to Colossae, but he hears of their faith. And one of them was because of Epaphias, where it also says that Epaphias could have been even a pastor there, a minister of Christ, it says. So as we look at Epaphias, if you could please turn back to Colossians chapter 4, and that'll be our text. For today. Colossians chapter 4, we see his great prayer life. And prayer is vital to each and every one of us.

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And I believe today we're lacking in prayer as a church, as a people. And we need to be praying more. And we need to be reminded of the power of prayer and how God

can change every situation. So as we look, we find, first of all, we learn of the foundation of his praying. Look again in Colossians chapter 4 verse 12, it says, Epaphias, who is one of you, a servant of Christ. " And we see that Paphius was a faithful man of prayer but notice How Paul identifies him. He identifies him as a servant of Christ. And this reveals two important things about this man. First of all, he was a true believer in Jesus. No one is a servant of Christ unless they are first saved and surrendered. Amen. Ended. Amen. And we see a lot of people today. They may serve, but for other intentions. But here we see He was faithful. He loved people. And unless you're a follower of Jesus, You can't truly save them. I mean, serve them. Amen. Being saved. And being a child of God is the foundation of having a successful prayer life. It's the communication between God and you.

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And that's vital. It's a relationship. It's not about religion. 1 Peter 3, verse 12 says, for the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers. But. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil. What a contrast, amen. But what a blessing to know that our Heavenly Father hears and answers our prayers. That was 1 Peter 3. Verse 12. I'm seeing some of you who are writing all your notes. But notice also that Apatrius' identification as a servant of Christ also teaches us that he also had to become submissive. Not only was Jesus his savior, but he was also his Lord. And so many times you find people say, Yes, Jesus is my savior. But they never surrender to his lordship in their life. And this is a key to surrender. You know, that's the hardest thing for man to do, is surrender. But I'm here to tell you that's the greatest thing that you can do surrender to the Lord Jesus in your life. To be a servant. One must have a master. And there's either you are the master of your own life or you've surrendered to the master. Amen. And to be a willing servant of Jesus Christ, one must submit and obey to him as his master. It's just that simple. And here we find Apaphius. He was just that person. Again, in John chapter 15, verse 7.

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The Bible says If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Here's a promise that comes from Jesus. Amen. And what a blessing to know that Jesus can hear your prayers and move quickly to change every situation in your life. And I know there's a lot of people suffering with all situations. But I'm here to say that God Is the one that can change the situation. God is the one that's the miracle maker. And here in Psalm chapter 66, verse 18, the Bible says, If I regard iniquity in my heart.

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The Lord will not hear me. This is again a relationship. Amen. God knows what you're dealing with. And that means our disobedience to the Lord will shut off our prayer line to God. It's that simple. And so many times God gets our attention when we feel the distance. When we're going our own way and we don't see Him moving in our lives. So these two factors form the foundation for which we can build in an effective prayer life. Submission and repentance. Amen. Secondly, Epaphrius, we learn of the frequency of his praying. Look again at Colossians chapter 4. Verse 12. Here it says, Epaphrius, who is one of you, a servant of Christ. Saluteth you. Always laboring fervently for you in prayer, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Here, the Apostle Paul says that Epaphrius was always laboring in prayer for the Colossian believers. You know, the greatest thing a church could have, believe it or not, is not just a preacher that preaches the word of God. But prayer warriors. Amen. I can just. I picture this all the time in my mind, how when we stand and we see the Lord face to faith and how he says, Well

done thou good and faithful servant."

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I believe you're gonna see more older mothers and women who were prayer warriors in churches get a greater acceptance by the Lord. Amen? Think of that. You know, I think of it only in my own life. How my mother used to pray all the time for me and my brothers living in the projects, running out, running out into the night, not knowing what we were getting into, but praying for us. I believe God really moved in my heart and saved me because of my mother's prayers. Amen. Prayer is important for your life. And we learn the frequency of his praying in verse 12.

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Prayer was a regular experience for him. Look again, it says, always laboring fervently for you in prayers. Can you imagine that? And this should be in our life too. Also, turn back to Colossians chapter four, verse two, and look what it says here. The apostle Paul writing, he says, Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving. " Amen. And here, I believe Epaphrius was one who was laboring fervently In prayer for the Colossian believers and others, but he did it with thanksgiving. He had joy. And unfortunately, many lack prayer in their Christian walk.

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Amen. And it may show a lack of faith. Well, what do you mean? We won't pray if we doubt the promises and the power of God. How many times you look at a situation and you say, Oh, no way can that change? Well, yes, it can. We have a great God who can change anything, He's the way maker, amen. And you have to come to Him by faith, knowing that he can change the situation. It may show a lack of conviction. Some fail to understand how important and vital regular prayer is in our walk with Jesus. You know, can you imagine, all of you who are married or in a relationship with a significant ready to get engaged. But can you imagine not talking to the one you love for a week or a month? Can you imagine that? It's the same thing. We're in a relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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And we need to be what? In regular communion with him. And how do we do that? By prayer. It's important to have vital, regular prayer. And here, as we look at Apaphius, it says, always laboring fervently. He didn't just pray, he labored in his prayers. He fervently came before the throne of God, constantly praying with fervency. Think of that. Do you pray like that? The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5, verse 17 pray without ceasing. How many of us in times begin to pray and we're praying and we don't see anything happen and then all of a sudden we just give up? Well, that's not what God wants us to do. He wants us to continue. He wants us to fervently pray and labor in it, struggling in our prayers. You know, sometimes He's doing works that you cannot see, He works behind the scene.

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I always say He comes in at the last minute. Amen. The last minute, he'll come and change that situation. So you know it had come from him, amen. And you know, we tend to use prayer as a last resort. How many have done that? How many have gone and tried to do everything on your own? And at the last minute, what do you do? When nothing else you can do, it's then you start praying. Now, I don't see any hands up, but I'm going to tell you that's all of us. Amen. Me included. I find myself doing the same thing, trying to do something on my own. Nothing's working. And then finally, finally, I start praying. And that's what happens. We usually pray when nothing else we can do, but Jesus wants us to pray before we do anything at all. He wants us to start praying. And then also, it may be a lack of concern.

Sometimes we fail to pray because we have allowed ourselves to become indifferent to the spiritual needs of other people. And a lack of for our own spiritual growth. And this happens. And we ought to be praying always.

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Amen. Always praying. Especially when you're driving. I think that's one of the best times to pray. But keep your eyes open. Amen. But think of that. Look what Jesus says in Luke chapter 18. Go to Luke chapter 18. And here's an excellent example that Jesus himself says in Luke chapter 18. What an example of persistent prayer. Luke chapter 18. And look what it says in verse 1. Everyone there? 18, verse 1 says, and he spake a parable unto them to this end that men ought to always pray and to not faint, saying, there was in a city a judge which feared not God, neither regarded God a man, and there was a widow in that city, and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of my adversary. " And he would not, for a while. But afterward, he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man, yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming." She weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall not God avenge his own elect and cry day, that which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

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Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth. What's he saying? He's saying that God loves when you come to him. He loves when you continually bring your petitions to him and concerns to him. And sometimes it takes time. Sometimes it's a while before you hear a prayer. Sometimes it's a while before you even see God moving. But let me tell you, he loves you and he hears your prayers and he's ready and able and willing to turn the situation you're in. And it comes with faith. And it comes with fervency.

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Amen. We learn the fervency of his praying. Look again, Colossians chapter 4, verse 12 says, Apaphias, who is one of you One who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you always laboring fervently for you in prayers. And this Greek term for laboring fervently means to wrestle or struggle or to contend. Amen. It refers to giving one's full energy to something. You know how many times you just throw up a prayer, nothing behind it do repetitious prayer that you've learned, you know, especially when children go to sleep, they'll say a little prayer before they go to sleep. Listen, those are repetitious prayers. Sometimes you just pray, throw a half hearted prayer. Listen, God wants you to be fully engaged when you're praying. I believe we see that's what happens with prayer warriors. They're fully engaged, they take it as if they're at war, at war in a situation, and the only one that can change the situation is God, and they come to God with faith and boldness.

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And that's what. We need to do. That is how we ought to be praying. Amen. James 5 16 says, Confess your faults one to another, pray one for another, that ye may be healed. And listen, the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. We can't even comprehend what our prayers are doing in the spiritual realm. But fervency and prayer is vital for two reasons. Two reasons I look at this. First, prayer is effective. It demands labor and time, but it is effective. I've seen it. I've witnessed God move. When there was no other hope. I've seen it. It's effective. Listen, we're so worried about trying to do things on our own strength and our own abilities, but I'm here to tell you when you bring it to God fervently, He moves effectively in that situation. And then, also, another point is prayer is powerful because we're in a spiritual battle.

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I've seen God move like never before, changing situations. There was a time where my wife and I went to a home and they were kind of into witchcraft and Satanism and all that. But I'm here to tell you when my wife and I were invited to come and to pray for a certain person, man, we went to the house and we felt like we were in a spiritual battle. We began to bring out scriptures and praying, and you could see it was a struggle. And we don't know what was happening in the spiritual realm, but I'm here to tell you after after we were done maybe days after we saw God doing Miraculous things in that that family But when we came home, we're exhausted spiritually there was a battle going on and This is what I'm saying To labor fervently. Listen, you have to recognize that you are going before the throne of God and it's a spiritual thing.

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And you could be dealing with something right now. There could be something in your life right now, a relationship, a situation. And the only thing you can do is fervently labor in prayer for God to move. And he will. And that's what Epaphrius was. The Bible says, always laboring fervently for you in prayer. " Also, we learn of the focus of his praying. Look again in Colossians chapter 4, verse 12. It says, Epaphrius, who is of one of you, servant of Christ, saluted you always. One of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you always, laboring fervently for you in prayer, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. What a blessing. His praying was not focused on selfish things. Amen. So many times we pray about things that we want, that we don't need. I want to recognize. A red Maserati.

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But I don't need one, amen? But what's more important is to be praying that those around me would be protected by the hand of God. Those around me would hear the word of God and begin to grow in their faith and strengthened. That's more important. We need to be praying one for another. We need to be praying that God would protect us, God would strengthen us, those wayward children, those wayward family members, those who never listen to you, who reject the Lord Jesus. We need to fervently pray. Amen. If we're going to be faithful in prayer, we must keep the right focus. Amen. Epaphras' focus was on spiritual development for the Colossian believers, and that should be ours. You know, so many times I'll go in my mind, and when I'm praying I'll go from pew to pew. I like when people stay in their own pews. Amen. Because as I go from pew to pew, I'm praying for the needs of each and every one of you. And I believe every pastor does the same thing. There's a burden on the soul of a pastor for those that he's ministering to. And yes, it's essential.

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That we focus on the right things. And prayer is essential. It's essential for Christians individually and for church collectively. Every one of you has needs. And a church has need. Amen? This church has a need. To be of one mind, one accord. This church has a need to stand true to the word of God. This church has a need for those to be active, active, spreading the gospel message to friends and family and those they come in contact with. And we need this church to have to be complete and perfect mature in the things of God. It's essential. And lastly, I want you to look at Hebrews. Look again in Hebrews chapter 4. Now we had this as our scripture reading Jesus is our high priest, but he wants us to come to him. Look what it says in Hebrews chapter four, verse sixteen, and this is for all of us. It says, Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in a time of need. You know, when you look at this word boldly, what

does that mean? God wants you to boldly come before Him in faith.

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It's all about faith. If you don't believe Him can do it, and you don't pray about that, and you don't have faith behind your prayer, it's not going to happen. God wants you to come to him fully knowing that he's capable of doing anything. And that his ear is set on you prayer. Sometimes people just, you know, go through the motions. But God is saying, hey, do you really believe that I can do it for you? And here in Hebrews chapter 4, verse 16, it says, let us therefore come boldly unto his throne of grace.

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Boldly, that we may obtain what? Mercy. I believe we all need mercy. We all need to not get what we deserve. But yet, God has allowed us to come before his throne. And it says here and find grace to help in a time of need. Isn't that a blessing? That's exactly what Epaphreus did. He believed. He strived in prayer. Not for him, but for others. And today, I'm praying that this church would remember that there's a God that loves them and a God that's waiting to hear their prayers. Prayers for every Christian. God just doesn't hear the prayers of A pastor or a deacon or a Sunday school teacher. He hears the prayers of every believer in Jesus. He calls you his what? Jesus calls us his brethren. And if you've accepted the Lord Jesus, you are a child of God. And he's poured his spirit in you.

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The Bible says, even. Bible says, even when we don't know what we ought to pray about, the groanings in our heart, the spirit knows how to pray for us. But may we recognize the fact that there's a God in heaven that's waiting for us to pray to him in faith. Epaphras, he was a servant of God. He suffered for the cause of Christ. And Philemon, the Apostle Paul says, My fellow prisoner. He was in prison right alongside the Apostle Paul. But he was a prayer warrior. And today I pray that each and every one of you would recognize the fact. That we need to pray more. You look what's going on in the world. You look what's going on in our families and our friends and all that's going on. We need to pray with fervency and get a hold of God. Will you get a hold of God and see Him do mighty works? Why don't we stand? Father, as we come before you, Father, help us to recognize the fact that you want us to be like the widow with this unjust judge. She was able to have him move in her situation.

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Because she had fervent prayer. I mean, she would come fervently before him day and night, requesting him to move on her behalf. And Father, that's the same way you want us to be, to come by faith, knowing that you do all things in your time, and you are the miracle maker. And Father, help us to recognize that. That you love us. And that you're waiting for us to come before you boldly seeking help and grace and mercy. And Father, I pray that this message would raise up those to become prayer warriors, to pray for this church, to pray for one another, that we would see. You move in mighty ways because of your servants, your faithful servants in prayer. And Father, we thank you. For the word of God. We thank you for these unsung heroes like Epaphras that we can learn from. And Father, help us strengthen our faith.

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May we be complete in Christ and fervent in prayer. In this I pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.