

Prestonwood Connection 2004

What Does The Lord Require of Me? #6

Discover The Secrets Of Prevailing Prayer

John 14

Wednesday, March 17, 2004 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message Discover The Secrets Of Prevailing Prayer] < 316 >

All the church, tonight, said "Amen." In John chapter 14, verse 13 Jesus said these words:

<sup>13</sup>*"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son, <sup>14</sup>If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. <sup>15</sup>If you love Me, keep My commandments."*

On October 28<sup>th</sup> of 1885 Andrew Murray wrote these words about that passage of Scripture:

*"The Father waits to hear every prayer of faith. He wants to give us whatever we ask for in Jesus name. We have become so accustomed to limiting the wonderful love and the great promises of our God that we cannot read the simplest and clearest statements of our Lord without qualifying them. If there's one thing I think the church needs to learn, it's that God intends prayer to have an answer and that man has not yet fully conceived of what God will do for the child who believes that his prayer will be heard. God hears prayer."*

God hears prayer. We've been talking on Wednesday nights about *What Does The Lord Require Of Me?* And beginning in John 13 and in the chapters and the verses that are found there right in the heart of this portion of Scripture, we've been looking together at what it means to be a genuine follower of Jesus Christ and what are the hallmarks and the characteristics that Jesus identified as being a part of the life of a true follower. And it would not surprise you that one of the things that Jesus would talk about would be about the subject of prayer and I think it is very significant at the end of this statement on prayer that Jesus said:

*"If you love Me keep My commandments."*

Prayer is an expression of the heart, of love and faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. Let me just rehearse for you what we've looked at, at this point, where we are in this check list, if you will, of *What Does The Lord Require Of Me?* In John 13 we began by studying and talking about, if we wanna know what the Lord requires we have to first put aside our pride. Put aside your pride, that's the first step. The second step is to pursue

the pathway of purity. God wants His people to be a people who are pure and knowing what it means to have a pure walk in a stained world is a part of being a follower of Christ. It's that very purity that gives us testimony and witness of Christ. It's the very thing Mike was talking about, how that a man saw a group of believers living and functioning as believers are to live and to function and it was a part of what he sensed in the...the purity of their hearts, but of course also in the love of their lives. And so the third thing that Jesus said is this, make love your aim. In fact He said: [John 13:35]

*"By this will all men know that you're My disciples, if you love one another."*

And so *What Does The Lord Require Of Me?* It is that I put aside my pride, that I pursue the pathway of purity, that I make love my aim and then last week we looked together at chapter 14 and verse 1 where He said live with a homesick heart. Realize that while you live in a world and there are troubles in this world and there are heartaches in this world and there are problems in this world, I want you to live with a hope that's beyond this world and we talked about that last week and the hope that we have in heaven. And tonight we come to the next of these items that are to be involved in being a true and a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and that is that we must discover the secret of prevailing prayer. It is so very important in your life and in my life that prayer is not something that is incidental, not something that is somehow in the wrong place or priority in our lives, but that we are to understand the pure power of prayer and that there's much to be learned and much to be studied in the arena of prayer. Now one more time I wanna read for you the verses that I read when I stepped to this platform tonight, beginning in John 14 in verse 13:

<sup>13</sup>*"Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask anything in My name I will do it. <sup>15</sup>If you love Me, keep My commandments."*

What does Jesus want us to know and to understand about prayer? And not only what does Jesus say in this moment, but how does that fit in the big picture of what the Bible teaches us about this subject of prayer? Well, tonight what I'm going to try to do is to simply give you as though it were a guide, a list a..., a series of statements and of insights that I trust will help you to discover the secrets of prevailing prayer in your life. So let's begin, if I'm going to pray, if I'm going to glorify the Lord and if I'm going to be obedient to that which He desires of me **WHAT DOES HE WANT IN MY PRAYER LIFE?**

Number 1: **MAKE PRAYER YOUR FIRST CHOICE AND NOT YOUR LAST RESORT.** Make prayer your first choice and not your last resort. Prayer is not just a punctuation in the Christian life, it is intended to be a priority and yet I think that all of us know that one of the most common tendencies in life is for us to see prayer and for us to use prayer sort of like that a..., mask on the airplane, you know, "In case of emergency" oxygen will descend, will be available, put it on your face and then the face of a

child, you know, I mean there's that...that whole idea of this is to used in case of emergency. How many times have you had somebody come up to you and say, "Boy there's nothing we can do but pray about it." I mean has it really come to that? [congregation laughter] That's all we can do now, we can just pray. [more laughter] I mean how many times have we communicated, there's nothin we can do now but just pray? Now I know what they mean and I know what I mean when I say that. We find ourselves, as though it were, extended and suspended in a place where the only thing that we can do is to pray. But please hear me tonight; prayer is not simply a little relic in the religious life that fits in a glass cage with a set of writing on the front that says, "Use in case of an emergency." Prayer is to be the first choice in the life of the Christian, the follower of Jesus Christ and it is therefore a requirement, it is a resource and it is a responsibility for every one of us. I love the words of Matthew Henry who said:

*"Make prayer the key of the morning and the bolt of the night."*

That's so wonderful. Let all of your life and all of the activity of your day, as though it were, have the common cord of prayer moving and working through it and let prayer not be something that you use in the event of an emergency, let it be a part of the very fabric of your daily life. Now frankly, many times we trivialize prayer. Many times we try to a..., just talk about prayer in casual ways and...and sometimes we don't see it's importance. I...I know one of the places that I read about prayer the most are on some of those signs that I pass at churches when I drive around. You know some of these signs they have something about prayer to kinda prod you to get you thinking. I brought a few of those with me tonight. You've maybe seen some of these:

*"If you're troubles are deep-seated or long...or longstanding, try kneeling."*

Heh, seen that on a sign. I like this one.

*"God answers knee-mail. God answers knee-mail."*

Of course we've all heard and seen this one many times.

*"The family that prays together..."*

What's the rest of it?

*"...stays together."*

There's another one that says:

*"Seven days without prayer makes one weak."*

W-E-A-K! And then this one says:

*"~~When the up...~~when the outlook is bad, try the up-look."*

That is good advice. And then I saw this on a sign and I just couldn't pass it up:

*"You give God the credit, now give God the cash."*

I thought that one was pretty good too. [congregation laughter] I Heh, ah heh, heh it doesn't have anything to do with prayer but there's always a way to get stewardship in there [congregation laughter] so, you know. I love that.

*"You've given God the credit, now give God the cash."*

Heh, heh, heh, prayer, how important it is, that prayer is not a last resort in life. I think at this very important time in our nation, at this very important time in our ministry and our lives, our families, there is nothing that we can see to be of higher priority than the need to pray. Make it your first choice.

Leonard Ravenhill, an incredible author and writer on the subject of revival said this:

*"The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray, yet no man is greater than his prayer life."*

Make prayer your first choice and not your last resort.

There's a second principle that I want you to see and to understand tonight and that is to **ASK IN THE NAME OF JESUS**. Now obviously we come right back ~~to the task...~~to the text that is here before us tonight. Jesus says: [John 14:13]

*"Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do,..."*

The secret to prevailing prayer is asking in the name of Jesus. Now, in the name of Jesus is not just some sort of a ritualized repetition. You know how we do, we pray all these things and we say, "In the name of Jesus. Amen." It's kinda like a little, you know, just throw that in there, let me be sure I say that. Your know? No, there's nothin wrong with prayin in the name of Jesus. I always seek to pray in the name of Jesus. But I wanna always remind you that when I talk to you about praying in the name of Jesus I'm not just saying that it's the sign off in prayer. It's not the sign off of prayer, praying in the name of Jesus is the password of prayer. Every day when you go to log on to your computer you have to put in a password, you have to get access and the secret to access in prayer, the thing that opens the door of heaven for you is not you or your emotion or your need or your urgency or your intensity or your words or your definitions or how many people you get to pray with you. The thing that opens the door of heaven in prayer is that we have access and the password is not a secret, it is Jesus. Pray in the name of Jesus.

Armin Gesswein said:

*"We do not receive things by prayer, we receive them by Jesus."*

That's a brilliant statement. I'm afraid that far too many people believe that the way that Christians get things is just by praying and prayer becomes a means of manipulating God. We don't get things by prayer, how long, how often, how much we pray; we get things by Jesus and Jesus is the password of prayer. But now, when you pray in the name of Jesus, understand what that means and it means at least 3 things.

One it means that I am **PRAYING UNDER HIS AUTHORITY**. I'm going to come under His authority to pray. I'm not gonna stand in my own authority, I'm going to come in the authority of Jesus, but even more than that I'm going to see to it that my life is under the authority of Jesus. The Bible says in the book of Proverbs 15 and verse 29:

*The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayers of the righteous.*

How can you be righteous? How can I be righteous when I pray? Frankly I am not a righteous man, but I am made righteous by the blood of Jesus Christ and because Jesus has forgiven me of my sin when I come to stand in the presence of God, the Bible says I have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. And therefore I have the ability to come in the name of Jesus and under the authority of Jesus and I can bring my requests to the Father. Once again the Bible says in Psalm 66 in verse 18:

*If I regard iniquity in my heart, The LORD will not hear me.*

If I think that I can just come by some authority because of who I am, my title, my friends, the things that I know, quote Scriptures; I can't even come and quote Scriptures in my own authority. I come in obedience and surrender to Jesus Christ and therefore I honor His authority and I'm willing to deal with my sin. I'm willing to confess what needs to be confessed. I'm willing to get right at what ever level I need to be right because I can't come to God and ask Him to do something while I'm holdin one hand behind my back with my fingers crossed sayin I sure hope He doesn't find out. You see the Bible is very clear:

*If I regard iniquity in my heart, The LORD will not hear me.*

James tells us in James 4 in verse 3:

*You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

Prayer is not about you, it's about Him. So number 1, when I'm praying in the name of Jesus I'm under His authority. Second, it means that as I pray I'm seeking to **PRAY WITH HIS APPROVAL**, that it's got His approval. In this ministry, as you might imagine there are very few things that are

purchased or that are transacted on a large scale that do not ultimately have the signature of Mike Buster on it, because he's the Executive Pastor. There are certain levels of clearance in the chain of command, within the structure of the organization of this ministry, but I'm telling you there is a line of approval that at a certain level and with a certain decision making there is one person who has been given that, not only that authority, but has been give the authority to make that approval and therefore approval simply means that we seek to do what we do in that which is in consistence with and in accordance with the determined will and purpose of God. It's not just my will, it's His will and therefore I am seeking to come under His authority and to open my life to Him to say Lord I belong to You, but I'm also coming with seeking His approval and therefore there is a dimension of prayer that is described by Jesus in another passage of Scripture in Matthew chapter 7 and verse 7 and this is what Jesus said:

*"Ask, and it will be given to you;..."*

What's the next word?

*"...seek, and you will find;..."*

What's the next one?

*"...knock, and it will be opened..."*

There's not only the sense that I come to surrender in prayer, there's a sense in that I come and seek in prayer. I come and I seek God. I come and I seek His approval, His will; to have my life conformed to His direction and His desire and therefore a part of prayer is asking and seeking and knocking.

There's one other thing that I wanna be sure that we all understand about prayer and praying in the name of Jesus certainly means this; it means that I'm under His authority, it means that I pray with His approval, but it means that **IT'S FOR HIS ACCLAIM**. For His acclaim, not my claim to fame, His, it's all about the glory of God. And prayer brings my life and my circumstances into conformity with the glory of God.

Earlier today I took time to go and to visit Dr. Ed Pauley. Dr. Pauley is one of the most respected a..., Biblicist in this entire community, but certainly one of the most a..., love and admired biblist...biblical teachers here in our church. He's taught a Bible Fellowship class here for many years. He's a wonderful Bible scholar. But just a few days ago Dr. Pauley a..., discovered that there were some issues that needed to be addressed and he went in and had colon surgery and indeed they found that a..., there was some significant issue to be dealt with there and...and just today he's learned a pathology report that he has a a..., stage 3 form of colon cancer. He has a positive prognoses of some treatment, but obviously there's a battle to be waged here and I'm standing there at the bedside of this man that I love and that I admire and appreciate. He started talking to me

about just how God has, in just a fresh way left the Scripture begin to speak to his heart in dealing with this cancer and he shared with me a couple of passages and then he got to that passage that Mike used just a few minutes ago; Romans 8 and verse 28. He said you know I just had to really embrace that fact again that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. He said, I told my doctor that today. He said but I've been thinking about that myself. He said I realize that it all really comes down to how you qualify good, heh, is it gonna be my good or is it gonna be the good that leads to the glory of God. And he said if I qualify the good that leads to the glory of God than I can say to Paul, whether by life or by death, may God be glorified in me. Whew! I said, "Dr. Pauley, can I preach that tonight?" he said, "Yeah." I said and we'll pray for you and obviously there's a man who has just afresh and anew understood that he's praying in the name of Jesus but it's all for God's acclaim. And he has every reason to hope and to go through some treatment... **< turn tape >** ...has good potential in the future. Obviously he would have loved to have gotten a report as anybody would, we've got all the cancer, it's gone, we don't have to worry about it in the future. But you know what was wonderful is that he said I have embraced this truth, that if God causes all things to work together for good and what matters for me is His glory then as long as it's for the glory of God then it's good. That is a very mature faith. It's how and why a group of a..., 5 who had bourn the name of Christ in Iraq, 4 of them murdered, one of them critically wounded, how their families and their friends are dealing with their death this week and their martyrdom, as though it were, in Iraq. Because we don't understand that, no one would have written that script, no one would choose those kinds of things in life. We just don't understand all of that. But we can stand here tonight and to say that God will work it together for good because ultimately we're trusting that it will be for God's glory. And while we can't fit those pieces, they don't make rig...rational and logical sense and it hurts and there is pain and there is suffering in this world and that is real ladies and gentlemen. Please don't ever think that prayer just means, I command you away, because you can't command suffering out of your life. Sometimes it's your faith that takes you through suffering, but it's in that suffering that you embrace the glory of God and there's purpose in that and you say I ask the Lord what I desire but ultimately because I'm under His authority and I pray for His approval and it's ultimately unto His acclaim that's what my prayer life is all about.

Third thing in prayer and this really comes out of what I've just said to you; **SURRENDER TO THE CHARACTER OF GOD IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE**. Surrender to the character of God in every circumstance. There are a lot of circumstances in life that are overwhelming. There are a lot of circumstances in life that are inexplicable, irrational and illogical, but the reality is, is that God never changes and while the circumstances of my life keep changing and altering and adjusting and I'm having to deal with all the human emotions and issues that go with that, prayer allows me to come and to bring these things before God and to cry from my circumstances to Him, but the one thing that He wants me to know and to ultimately perceive is that He will work in my circumstances consistent

with His character. He's a God who never changes. He's lovely. He's just. He's pure. He's righteous. He's gracious. He's merciful. And the thing that has always amazed me as I've walked with people through every kind of suffering and tragedy you can imagine is how many times in the midst of life's worst moment there's been a little flower of grace to remind people that God is there and that God is working and that God has a purpose. I don't understand those things. I can't explain those things, but I know that's how God works and therefore in my circumstances and through prayer I am able to come to the place where I embrace His character. You know that's what prayer is, prayer is honoring and adoring the character of God, acknowledging who God is and what God is like, turning my eyes away from me and turning my eyes to Him, coming to the place where I put my gaze on God and my glance at my request. Heh, you know this is how most of us pray, "Oh God it's getting bad, it's getting worse, it's getting darker, it's getting, whoo, God I don't know what I'm gonna do." [slight congregation laughter] And we're just focused on that request, we're lookin over our shoulder, are You up there are You listen to me? No, my glance is to be on my request, my gaze is to be on God, because the more that I'm filled with an understanding of His character I will be able to release what's happening in my life to Him. You see really, when we pray there are 4 possible answers to every prayer, God answers prayer and He answers it consistent with His character. So what are the answers that you and I can expect from God in prayer? Well, there're 4 simple answers.

Number 1: God may answer "**Yes.**" Yes!

He may answer "**No!**" And there will come days in your life where you will thank God for prayers that He did not answer. Heh, when you will go through enough circumstances you will see them and you will say God I'm sure glad you didn't do what I asked you to do there, because ~~Your hi...~~Your plan was bigger, greater, better than what I had in mind. So He may answer, "Yes" He may answer "No"...

He may answer "**Wait!**" Whew, as a child, mom and dad, mom and dad, can we, would we, could we, should we? Wait, wait, wait, one of the hardest lessons in the world to learn, one of the hardest experiences in the world to live with, but sometimes the way that God answers prayers, He just says, "Wait!"

And sometimes it's just "**Trust!**" Just trust Me! It's not a yes, it's not a no, it's not a wait, it's just trust Me and we trust Him because of what we know about His character.

William Culverson said:

*"We keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than our prayers."*

And God is a God who will always be true to His character. That is the greatest assurance that I have as a believer. There are a lot of things I can't explain in life. There are a lot of things I don't understand in



life. There are things I don't like in life and there are things that really upset me in life, but the one thing that I am grateful for is that I have a God that I can trust and you know in every circumstance of life it really comes down to this, can God be trusted? That's it, it's not any more profound, it's not any more scientific, it's not any more significant than that. You have to ask yourself, can God be trusted? Well, one of the principles of prevailing prayer is to simply understand and to embrace that when I pray I am going to surrender to the character of God in every circumstance.

Number 4: In prayer we are to **UNITE WITH OTHERS** to strengthen their faith, our faith and to experience the power of God. One of the things that prayer does do is that not only does it connect me to God, but it connects us and those of us who've been in this service, I know that you know as I know that one of the sweetest and best parts of...of this Wednesday night gathering has been those times where we just connected in prayer, where we were able to share our needs, our dependencies, our weaknesses and to call out to the Lord together because prayer, like nothing else unites us and strengthens our faith and we together begin to experience the power of God. One of my favorite stories in all of the Bible is the account of what happened in the nation of Israel and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles chapter 20, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, I know you're there frequently, your Bible probably just falls right open to it but...but a..., you know I'm using a rather new Bible here so it took me some time to get to it and mark it tonight. But 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 20 let me just...let me just give you a...a quick read of what happened in the nation of Israel. It says:

*<sup>1</sup>It happened after this that the people of Moab and the people of Ammon, and the others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. <sup>2</sup>And then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar." (which is En Gedi). <sup>3</sup>And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all of Judah. <sup>4</sup>So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.*

People started uniting to find strength and help and prayer.

*And Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly...*

And he began to pray in verse 6:

*<sup>6</sup>..."O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven,..."*

I love that, see he's honoring the character of God even in the circumstances and he says:

*"...and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? <sup>7</sup>And are you not our God who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and gave it to You the descendants of Abraham,*

*Your friend forever?"*

And then he goes down to say in verse 10:

*<sup>10</sup>"And now, here the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but turned from them and did not destroy them—<sup>11</sup>here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You've given us. <sup>12</sup>O God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming up against us; nor do we know what to do,..."*

Verse 12:

*"...but our eyes are on You."*

They're focused on God and it was getting God as the central focus of this nation in a time of crisis, in a time of oppression, that brought them together, that forged their faith and that ultimately brought them to a place where they would experience the power of God together. If you'll look all the way down to verse 18, the Bible says:

*Jehoshaphat bowed his head and his face to the ground, and all of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping Him.*

And they began to pray and then the Bible tells us that they stood up and started singing. I love that. They stood up after they had this prayer meeting and they started singing unto the Lord: [verse 21]

*"Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."*

*His love endures forever.*

Anyway they were singing that song and verse 22 says:

*And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were all defeated.*

And verse 24 says:

*So when Judah came to the place to look over the wilderness,...*

*They came to the battlefield.*

*...they looked toward the multitude; and there were dead bodies, fallen on the earth. And no one had escaped.*

And the Bible goes on to say there was so much spoil it took em 3 days to carry it all away. It was incredible. God just changed everything, but it happened, when instead of trying to do it alone and do it themselves, they began to engage the power of God together in prayer and I do believe that

God moves and works in the hearts of people who engage themselves and commit themselves to pray together.

5<sup>th</sup> principle of prayer: **UNDERSTAND THAT PRAYER IS WARFARE**. It is warfare. It's not just some little religious experience of worship. I am telling you one of the hardest things you will ever engage in, in your life is the battles of prayer. Obviously we see that here in a...in a literal battle that the people of God came together. But we are living in a day of battle, we are engaged in one of the most fierce and one of the most difficult cultural wars that has ever raged in this world and it's among the nations and the peoples, it's within our communities and our families and we are struggling in the battle and in a war and there is the power of God to be found in the warfare of prayer. But prayer in and of itself is a big part of that warfare. Of course Ephesians chapter 6, verses 10 through 18 tells us about the putting on the armor of God and once we do, to get on our knees and begin to pray and there's this incredible picture of the warfare of prayer.

I love what Andrew Murray said, who I quoted to you earlier, he says this:

*"By words and works we can but touch or influence a few, but by our prayers we may benefit the whole world and every individual of it, high and low, friend, stranger and enemy."*

And there is a war to be waged in prayer. 2 more and I'm through, that is unless you wanna stay for another 30 minutes. Thank you brother, I've got a witness, okay, it's all settled. [congregation laughter]

**WAIT ON GOD WITH PATIENCE, CONFIDENCE, PERSISTENCE AND OBEDIENCE**. Jesus said:

*"If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me keep My commandments."*

I believe that's obviously a reflection of the fact that one of the things that He's commanding and instructing us to do is pray, but I think the other part of that is and while you pray keep on doing what you know to do right. Keep being obedient. And while you may not always understand God's timing or God's purpose or God's plan, do not let that deter your obedience to God. Be obedient to God. Wait on God with patience, confidence, persistence and obedience. Those make incredible qualities in a prayer life and in a life of faith.

And the 7<sup>th</sup> and the final thing that I would say to you if you wanna discover the secrets of prevailing prayer; **JUST ADD PRAISE**. Just add praise! You remember I talked to you a minute ago about the fact that this army of Israel began to praise the Lord together? I'm afraid far too many times we think that prayer is always just moaning and groaning. I gotta tell you some of the most horrendous services I've ever been in are just prayer services, you know, ingrown toenails and you know, everything you can imagine. [congregation laughter] You know and I'm just thinking man

we're a miserable lot of people. [more laughter] You know, ohhhhhhh. [more laughter] Have you ever thought about bein God and havin to listen to some of the prayer services He has to listen to? [more laughter] Well, I just encourage you, let's just add some praise to our prayer, let's begin to embrace God and to honor Him and thank Him and glorify Him and lift up His name and yes, even in the midst of our pain, let our tears and our pain bring us to a place of praising God. Praise is noting more than faith turned inside out. And when I begin to turn my faith on the outside and to praise the Lord, and I'm not talking about just you know, "Zippity Doo Da" praise praises. I'm talking about genuine praise from a heart that recognizes and trusts God. It's amazing what begins to happen when we praise the Lord. God answers prayer. That's why the songwriter said:

[What A Friend We Have In Jesus]  
 O what peace we often forfeit,  
 O what needless pain we bear,  
 All because we do not carry  
 Everything to God in prayer!

Can I just give you one final thread? Can I give you just one final challenge? Could I give you a late night promise, that tonight, today, if this day ends tonight as you slip into bed and get under the covers and pad your pillow and start tryin to put it away before you pick it up again the next day; would you just put your heard on this little pillow.

[Philippians 4:6]

*<sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made know unto God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your heart and your mind through Christ Jesus.*

I wish I could tell you how many times in the night when the thoughts are coming and the concerns are there, and the uncertainties are there I just had to rearrange my pillow and say, be anxious for nothing David, but in everything, yes this thing, and this thing and that thing and another thing, in everything by prayer and supplication let it be made known to God. And I can't tell you how many times I've fallen asleep repeating that verse, over and over again. It's a lot better than counting sheep.