

21-DAY FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 10, 2018

A prayer by Clement of Rome in the 1st century

'We beseech You, Master, to be our helper and protector.
Save the afflicted among us; have mercy on the lowly;
Raise up the fallen; appear to the needy; heal the ungodly;
Restore the wanderers of Your people;
Feed the hungry; ransom our prisoners;
Raise up the sick; comfort the faint-hearted.'

Last night, we turned our hearts and our prayers toward the church - not just any church - but Man O' War Church and we will continue that this evening. It is fitting that our prayers over our church would mirror those found of the early church. Let's explore how they prayed:

1. They called on God for deeper sense of his power within them.

'I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers . . . that you may know . . . what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.' (Ephesians 1:16,19)

2. They called on God for miraculous deliverances.

'So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church . . . When he realized he had been freed, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.' (Acts 12:5,12)

'But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake.' (Acts 16:25-26)

3. They called on God for a mind of discernment.

'And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.' (Philippians 1:9, 10 NKJV)

4. They called on God for strength and endurance.

'For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding....strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; (Colossians 1:9, 11 NKJV)

5. They called on God that he would complete their resolves.

*'Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and **fulfill** all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.'* (II Thessalonians 1:11 NKJV)