

## Day Eighteen

*First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, -1 Timothy 2:1*

### Entreaties, Petitions, and Supplications

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**Petition:** ἔντευξις enteuxisēnt'-yook-sis  
an *interview*, that is, (specifically) *supplication*: -  
intercession, prayer.

**Entreaty:** δέησις deēsis deh'-ay-sis  
a *petition*: - prayer, request, supplication.

**Intercession** ἐντυγχάνω entugchanō en-toong-  
khan'-o to *chance upon*, that is, (by implication)  
*confer with*; by extension to *entreat* (in favor or  
against): - deal with, make intercession.

*(ASV) I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men;*  
*(KJV) I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;*  
*(ISV) First of all, then, I urge you to offer petitions, prayers, intercessions, and expressions of thanks for all people,*  
*(MKJV) First of all, then, I exhort that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,*  
*(RV) I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men;*

Now, doesn't that make things clearer? Actually, what most people want is something simple. So, why does Paul get so technical? Because prayer doesn't always fit neatly into our prefab boxes. Prayer is not meant to be confined, it is meant to be expressive of our inner spirit to God, for worship, adoration, praise, thanksgiving, requests, pleadings, forgiveness and more.

Paul is not looking to confine, but to make us aware of what we ought to be praying about. There are times when certain prayers are more appropriate than others. We see that some of the terms actually use the other terms of prayer to

define themselves. It is not easy to delineate the subtleties and nuances of each type of prayer.

When Jesus was in the Garden praying we find He used 'supplications' - *In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. -Hebrews 5:7.* We find the word for 'supplication' here is defined as:  
*ἱκετηρία hiketēria hik-et-ay-ree'-ah: through the idea of approaching for a favor; entreaty: - supplication.*

Suppliants were known in the ancient world to approach in terms for peace with an olive branch as a symbol of seeking protection. It is also seeking help and protection. Some have supposed that prayers refer to the mind while supplications refer to the body. Supplications may be offered, not to deliver us from suffering, but to deliver us through suffering.

Plumptre says concerning our verse today from I Tim 2:1; *Supplications, prayers, intercessions.* It is difficult to distinguish between these three words. "Perhaps the idea in 'supplication' is that of want; in 'prayers' that of solemn devotion, and in 'intercessions' that of individual petitions to God.

The writer of Hebrews gives us insight into Christ's work for us: *Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. -Hebrews 7:25.* So, we see that Christ intercedes for us in all of our prayers. He pleads our case, as it were, to God.

However, we also offer prayers on behalf of others? In I Tim 2:2, we offer prayers on behalf of kings and all those in authority. Paul says in Philippians 1:19 what the prayers of saints affected: *for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, - Philippians 1:19.* Paul offers intercessory prayer on behalf of his fellow Jews or Israel as he calls them. *Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. -Romans 10:1* Jesus tells us to pray for our enemies in Matthew 5:44, yet another form of intercessory prayer. When Peter was in prison in Acts 12 we find the Church was praying for him.

We are obligated to pray on behalf of others. Listen to what Samuel said about his prayers: ***"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way. -1 Samuel 12:23.*** Paul asked more than once for intercessory prayer on his behalf. ***Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; -Romans 15:30-31 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. -Colossians 4:2-4***

This is really not a new idea of praying on behalf of others. We find this happening frequently in the Old Testament. Daniel offers a prayer on behalf of the Jews in the ninth chapter of his book. ***"So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. "O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name." - Daniel 9:17-19***

Moses was instructed by God to give this prayer to Aaron to bless the sons of Israel: ***Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.' "So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them." -Numbers 6:22-27***

So, our prayers go out to God on behalf of others for blessings, for aid, for guidance and help. Our prayers go out on our own behalf to see

ourselves and others through trials and troubles and not just to alleviate them.

While these terms may still seem rather confusing, it is best to keep in mind that we don't need to know all there is to know about prayer and its nuances to offer thanks and to ask God's aid in all things. After all, prayer is simple enough that even a child can do it.

***Prayerful Thoughts:*** Lord, listen to our prayers as we offer up to Thee the thoughts of our hearts for others and for ourselves. We seek Thy hand in all we do and for deliverance through all trials.