

WHY IS PRAYER SUCH A CHALLENGE? *Romans 15:30*

Prayer is one of the greatest _____ in history: so easy a child can do it, yet so difficult

This paradox explains why many fail regarding prayer: they fail to plan for the _____ prayer demands

The work of prayer is revealed in Rom. 15:30 in the word translated _____ (NKJV) & _____ (NIV)

This word was used in ancient times of the effort demanded to win a _____ or a _____

I. Because Prayer Is the Arena in Which God Brings Us to Complete _____ to His Will

This challenge is illustrated by Jesus' agony in the garden the night before He faced the _____

A. Jesus had no fear of _____ death: He laid down His life and He could take it up again

B. Isaiah 53 speaks of the travail of Jesus' _____: Jesus struggled with spiritual death

1) Jesus had existed for eternity without any contact with _____, the spotless Son of God

2) Jesus had existed for eternity in a perfect _____ relationship with the Father

3) On the cross, He became _____ for us and He was torn apart from the _____

C. Jesus' prayer in the garden is our example: we must also say, "Not my _____ but Yours, O God"

II. Because Prayer Calls for Us to Do the Work of the Spirit in the _____ of our Flesh

"The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak," and prayer is the kind of work that faces this _____

A. Human beings have a part that is seen, the _____, the part that is composed of atoms

B. Human beings have an unseen part that _____ the death of the body, unknown to science

1) "Soul" is used of the unseen part of man when we interact on the _____ level

2) "Spirit" is used of the unseen part of man when we interact with God on the _____ level

3) 1 Cor. 15 teaches that we now inhabit a "soulish" body not adapted to interacting with _____

III. Because by Prayer We Join the Cosmic Spiritual _____ between Light and Darkness

A. We fight this battle not with "carnal weapons" but the weapons described in Ephesians _____

The final weapon—the only offensive weapon—that is part of our armor for this battle is _____

B. The difficulty with fighting this great spiritual battle between light and darkness: it is _____

1) This great conflict takes place in the realm of _____ rather than the realm of sight

2) When we use the weapon of prayer, we often never see with our eyes if it _____ the battle!

C. The challenge is to continue to pray fervently, faithfully when we do not see " _____ to prayer"

IV. Because Prayer Calls Upon God to Do in the Lives of Other Human Beings What Is Beyond Our Human Capacity: Cause Spiritual _____ and Maturity

A. We may plant and water, but _____ must give the increase; without Christ we can do nothing

B. Our ministry is like farming: the farmer can do all that he can, but without _____ the crops will fail

C. Prayer is the means by which we lay hold of God to grant the _____ factor in ministry

CONC: This kind of prayer requires _____

This kind of prayer requires _____

This kind of prayer requires _____