stuck and he can't get it out.
And I had not heard this song in a while,
but I got One Day I Will stuck in my head at work and I sent out in a text.
And there's a particular verse, and I hope you take time to read the verses
when we sing these songs.
Verse 2 of that song,
and I can't say that this first part is true for me.
The writer says,
from the time I first met him, he's been all to me.
That's not true.
He's becoming more to me.
But the rest of this verse is,
and my life with his joy he is filled.
And I'm longing for the day
when my eyes shall behold him.
Thank God one day.
One day I will.
Amen.
Amen.
One more time,
let's return to the book of Ephesians chapter number 6.
Ephesians chapter number 6.
Lord willing,
we're going to wrap this book up tonight.
I'm going to tell you something that's happened though.
The end of this book has turned into a launching pad for something else.
So, we're going to be,
we may spend a few services,
maybe a few weeks on a different subject after tonight.
But what Paul,
the way he concludes this letter to the church,
boy, has been on my mind,
not just this week, but it actually began last week
just as soon as we finished the book of Ephesians.
But let's read Ephesians chapter 6, verse number 10,
all the way down to the end of the book, verse number 24.
Paul says, Finally,
my brethren,
be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.
Put on the whole armor of God that you may be
able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,
but against principalities,
against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this world,
against spiritual wickedness in high places.
Wherefore,

taking to you the whole armor of God
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day
and having done all to stand.
Stand therefore,
having your loins girt about with truth
and having on the breastplate of righteousness
and your feet shod with the preparation
of the gospel of peace.
Above all, taking the shield of faith
wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked
and take the helmet of salvation
and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.
He's still in the same sentence here.
He says in verse 18,
Praying always with all prayer
and supplication in the spirit
and watching thereunto
with all perseverance
and supplication for all saints.
And for me that utterance may be given unto me,
that I may open my mouth boldly
to make known the mystery of the gospel,
for which I am an ambassador in bonds, that therein I may speak boldly
as I ought to speak.
But that you also may know my affairs and how I do
to conscious,
our beloved brother
and faithful minister in the Lord shall make known to you all things
whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose,
that you might know our affairs
and that he might comfort your hearts.
Lastly,
peace be to the brethren and love with faith from God the Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And I've never noticed the beauty
in this very last verse.
Paul says, Grace be with all them
that love our Lord Jesus Christ
in sincerity.
And he concludes,
Amen.
Let's pray.
Dear Father, I thank you for the privilege
for what to live another day
or to enjoy the blessings
that you have just showered in my life.
Lord, I thank you for the people that are here tonight in this church,

the truth of the songs that I've been saying.
Dear Lord, I pray tonight
that you would take your word,
that you would enable me to share it in a manner
that is right in your eyes,
that we may grasp it,
that we might receive it.
Dear God, most of all, that we might apply it.
Lord,
we again ask you to take this time.
You do with it what only you can.
Lord,
in Jesus' sweet name we pray.
Amen.
Amen.
Full honesty,
part of me
is a little nervous.
I guess even you could use the term
apprehensive
about speaking on the subject.
that I feel led to speak on
or teach on tonight.
Not because it's sensitive or not because it's controversial,
but because the subject is so familiar.
Most of us already know,
already heard all that I'm going to say.
We,
in a sense, probably think we know all we need to know about the subject at hand.
And part of me is fearful of losing
your interest and attention.
But here's what I know.
The more that I've studied on this and the more I've meditated on this,
the bigger it's got.
And I'm absolutely convinced
that it is impossible
to overstress
the significance of it.
It must be proclaimed,
it must be explained,
it must be taught,
it must be preached
until what we're going to look at tonight becomes actually part
of the fiber
of our being.
It is so, so,
so,

so
important.
I got a sort of a,
it's not a crude illustration,
but something come to my mind today.
I was thinking about this subject
and what Paul is saying
in our lives and went back to when I was a kid.
I grew up,
I was born in 71,
so I remember the mid to late 70s.
I remember the early 80s when I was a child.
There's a lot of things different today than they were in that time,
multiple things, no internet,
no cell phone,
no remote controls even.
You had three channels and sometimes only two of those would work.
But one of the things that was really common
in my day was smoking.
Everybody smoked it seemed like.
My mama didn't smoke,
but my dad smoked and my grandma smoked
and my grandmama smoked and my aunts
and my uncles smoked.
My grandmother moved in with us.
She'd had a stroke
and she still smoked.
She would, I would ride up on my bicycle
to the grocery,
to the convenience store and buy her a whole carton of cigarettes when I was about
10 years old.
People smoked in restaurants.
Y'all remember,
they just smoked everywhere.
And then something happened.
Doctors and scientists discovered
that there was an indisputable
direct link
to cigarette smoking and lung disease.
There was commercials that got pulled.
There were billboards that got taken down.
There were warning labels and signs
placed on the packages themselves
that no right-thinking man
could even begin to argue that there was not a direct correlation
to inhaling that
smoking your lungs and emphysema

and cancer and lung disease.
I watched it kill my father.
I said, Brother Brian, what's that got to do with anything?
Folks, there are two things that will absolutely impact
our spiritual health.
More than two, but two that I know for sure.
One is the Word of God and the other is prayer.
You let a man that has a worn-out sword
because he spends
his time in this Word
and he's got calluses on his knees because he spends his time in prayer.
That man will be able to stand up to anything.
But you let either one of those things become like him in our life as a Christian.
Our time in God's Word and our time in prayer.
Folks, we are destined to fall.
We are destined not to be able to stand.
Paul talks a lot about,
we looked a lot about about the sword,
the Word last week,
but Paul wraps up this letter
with an exhortation and a closing
about prayer.
Tonight,
I want to spend most of our time really in just three verses,
primarily just one,
and see what the Apostle Paul
writes to this church about prayer and I'm going to go at rapid, rapid speed tonight,
but there's more in this one verse than I realized that was even there.
That's one of the great things about reading your Bible.
When you go to it and you read it and you read it and read it,
I heard an old preacher say it gets pregnant with meaning.
It begins to get bigger and it gets bigger and it gets bigger
and it gets bigger.
But look what Paul says here,
verse number 18
down through verse number 20.
Paul writing to the church, he says, praying always with all prayer
and supplication in the Spirit
and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication
for all saints and for me that utterance may be given unto me that I may open
my mouth boldly to make known to make known the mystery of the gospel
for which I am an ambassador in bonds that
therein I may speak boldly as I ought to speak.
We are to be
people of prayer.
Not ought to be, we must be
people of prayer.

Jesus says, my house shall be called a house of prayer.
But here he describes the prayer that he is praying
for this church.
And the first thing that we find here,
Paul says,
we should be people
of continual prayer.
Just look at these words if you don't mind
writing in your Bible or taking some kind of notes.
These aren't my thoughts or my ideas.
I'm just,
I want to share you with them the way they're written.
Paul says,
praying always.
Praying always.
That it's not just prayer
when things go haywire.
It's not just prayer in an emergency.
It's not just prayer when things are wrong.
It's not just prayer when someone is sick.
It's not just prayer
when I have some type of problem.
But it is continual prayer.
It is a consistent prayer.
It is the pattern of prayer.
He writes to the Thessalonians
that we should pray without ceasing.
I thought about about the life of Jesus.
Jesus' life
was what Paul is describing.
It was a pattern of prayer.
It was a life of prayer
that was consistent prayer.
But I also thought if there was anyone who didn't really need to pray,
we would think that would be Jesus.
But if there was also anyone who understood the necessity of prayer,
friend, that would be the Lord Jesus.
To me, the most famous
of Jesus' prayer is there in the Garden of Gethsemane.
But we find him in many other places praying.
It was a pattern of his life.
And I want to ask this a very important
question tonight.
Is this who we are?
Again, we've got to look at all of this in context.
But is this something that I do
just when things are difficult?

Is it something that I just do on Wednesday night or Sunday night
or when I say the blessing at night?
Or is my life one that is praying
always?
I'll never forget the first time I met a man
who actually seemed to live this way.
And it was in my
very first trip to Haiti.
I was telling Alta and Donna about him the other day.
His name's Jean-Louis
Jean-Baptiste.
He's a Haitian.
Brother John, I think, has passed away now.
Broke as a joke.
Lived in nothing.
Just had no money.
Had nothing.
But I tell you what, he had the Lord and he had his Bible.
And he knew it like the back of his hand.
I watched him quote in a tire song.
from memory.
But this first trip we went there,
I mean, it struck me as odd
because I'd never seen it.
We got picked up there at the airport and we're
huddling into this thing and before we leave,
now there's a sea of humanity of people there.
It's a third world country.
Pastor John says,
we must pray, we must pray, we must pray.
And not for 30 seconds.
I bet we pray for five minutes before they put
the car in gear.
We go to his house and before we go to bed that night he huddles
all the men up together and we pray there in his home.
So the next day we've got to get up and we've
got to go to where the work is which is about a three hour drive.
We begin and we pray again.
We get there
and we pray again because we've arrived.
We get there and we need to run
out in the marketplace to get some things
and we pray again before we go.
We pray again and I'm like, listen,
ain't we overdoing this thing just a little bit?
I mean, it's praying,
I mean, it's praying and it's praying and it's praying.

And you say,
preacher,
he lives in a war-torn country.
I mean, he lives in turmoil and darkness
and he absolutely does.
But folks, do we not?
Is that not what Paul is talking about here in this passage of Scripture?
Take every bit of this in context.
Just go back a few verses.
Here's why he's saying it.
Verse number 12.
For we wrestle not against flesh and blood
and against principalities and against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this world,
against spiritual wickedness in high places
and because of that,
our lives should be one
of not just emergency prayer
but a continual prayer.
It is,
I mean, it's in our gum.
It is part of us.
It is something that we do
on a consistent and continual basis.
He mentions continual prayer but look here
at the scope of prayer.
He says,
praying always
with all prayer
and supplication.
Now, listen, I'm not making too much of this.
I'm not diagramming it too minutely.
Praying always with all prayer
and supplication.
What is prayer?
We can say
communicating with God,
talking with God.
I heard a preacher say one time that praying is asking.
And in a sense,
he's exactly right.
Praying is asking.
But folks,
that definition
is woefully,
woefully insufficient.
If the only time

that we pray
is when we got something to ask God about,
we are entirely missing the purpose of prayer and why the Lord
has called us to pray.
And you say, preacher,
what other kind
of prayer is there other than asking?
How about prayers of thanksgiving?
Is there times?
Now, listen, I get a lot of this wrong.
I've gotten a lot of this wrong.
But this is one that I get right.
Sometimes I feel so overwhelmed
that I feel like I don't deserve
to ask God for anything.
I just want to get down on my knees and go, thank you, Lord.
Thank you.
Thank you for my wife who is next to me.
Thank you for my kids who have made a mess of my house.
Thank you for the job that I got.
Thank you for the health that I have.
Just prayers of thanksgiving to go to God.
I just want to praise you and I just want to thank you.
It ain't the same thing.
But think about this that the only time that our children
come to us,
the only time they communicated with us
is when they needed $20.
They need something.
Hey, I'm running out.
Gave us a $20 of me to dad.
I'm going here.
I need this.
I need that.
I need this.
I need that.
And we're talking about this great God and he says, listen,
you are engaged in a spiritual battle
and your call is what?
To stand.
Why?
To the praise of the glory of my grace.
And so you might be able to stand out to Hester.
I'm giving you a shield of faith.
I'm giving you a helmet of salvation.
Gird your loins up with truth and wear that breath plate of righteousness.
Preach the gospel to yourself.

Take that shield of faith with you.
But you got to pray
and you got to pray and it's got to be a pattern
of your life all the time.
It's just who you are.
Why?
Because we recognize
our need of God.
How do we stand?
What did Paul say?
We stand in what?
The power of what?
The power of his might.
But we're not just praying to ask.
We're praying for thanksgiving.
God, thank you.
And church, I believe that's one of the things
and I'm not just saying it because I'm here.
Not just so much because I'm here.
I don't see it as much here as I have in other places.
Thank God.
Friend, I've been at some churches
and by the time
we leave
the prayer request time to go to Sunday school,
I'm slapped depressed.
Everybody's got a problem.
Everything's wrong.
Woe is me.
Woe is this.
Woe is that.
And I just go, I just wish somebody would stand up and go,
thank you God for how good you have been to me.
Stacy,
thank God that Lane is sitting next to you.
Prayer's asking,
prayer's thanksgiving.
Prayer's interceding.
What does that mean?
That means you ain't praying to ask for yourself.
You're not even praying
to give God thanksgiving.
You are going to pray simply on behalf
of somebody else.
Lord,
this isn't about me today.
This is about my wife.

I need you to help her.
I need you to strengthen her.
I need you
to comfort her.
This is for my children.
This is for my pastor.
This is for
my co-workers.
There's all kinds of prayer.
Praying always
with all prayer and supplication.
I love that interceding prayer.
Do you know what in Hebrew Bible says that's what Jesus is doing right now for us?
The Bible says that he ever liveth
to make intercession for us.
So in a very real sense our Savior at this time
because he does see he does realize
he does recognize the situation that we're in.
If we don't understand the gravity of it he does.
So we ever liveth to make intercession for us.
Continual prayer the scope of prayer.
But it's also to be this
spiritual prayer.
Praying always
with all prayer
and supplication
in the spirit.
You say preacher is there another kind?
Unfortunately there is and it's quite common.
Tell me in your Bibles of Matthew chapter 6.
It's the type of prayer that Jesus is warning against
in this passage of Scripture.
Matthew chapter 6.
Let's begin with verse 1.
He says Take heed that you do not your alms before men to be seen of them otherwise
you have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.
Therefore when thou doest thine alms do not sound a trumpet before thee
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets that they may have glory
of men verily I say unto you they have their reward.
Listen we don't have to publicize every good thing we do for somebody else.
As a matter of fact I don't think we need to really publicize it at all.
But when thou doest thine alms let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth
that thy alms may be in secret and thy Father which
seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.
Look at verse 5.
And when thou prayest
thou shall not be as the hypocrites are

for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets
that they may be seen of men verily I say unto you they have their reward but thou
when thou prayest enter into thy closet and when thou shut thy door pray to thy
Father which is in secret and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee
them Paul says we are to pray in the spirit it is to be spiritual prayer and here
Jesus warns against prayer that isn't spiritual let me correct this first this is not
Jesus is not rebuking public prayer that's not what this is about at all what he's
rebuking is praying that isn't right praying that isn't true praying that isn't in
the spirit you say preacher what kind of prayer
is that it is a prayer to be seen and heard of men
it is a prayer of mindless reciting
it's a prayer with it's just another thing that I need to do
no Paul says we ought to pray in the spirit
preacher what does that mean to pray in the spirit
folks we are entering the holy of holies
we are entering the presence of the king of glory
we are bowing our knee to the one true God we are going before our father who has
adopted us he's writing to the church he's adopted us and has given us his spirit his
spirit is there to lead us his spirit is there to guide us his spirit is there to
teach us the spirit is there to overwhelm us
say I know what I'm doing I'm coming before my God because I realize I'm in a battle
I realize that all this is for the praise of his glory and I must come to him for the
power of his might and I'm coming moved by operating
in yielding to the spirit of God which is within me
and this is an oh me type of verse
because I can't tell you you might as well say oh me too that we just
we just we just kneel down
pray
and go on about our way
let me ask you this
because I guarantee you some of you got some
do you remember times in your life I mean that you really really pray
I'm not talking about weeping and shouting and making a scene remember Jesus
has already said this this isn't to be seen
or heard of men I'm talking about there's times when I
get down there and when I got up I know I've connected
because I put things aside
I'm not thinking about anything else other than God
I'm thinking about him I mean times in your life when you really really prayed it
didn't matter what was going on and friend every time
and this shouldn't just be for emergency cases I'm talking about when we come we're
going to pray Sunday morning before we go to Sunday school when we pray we need to
come and we need to pray in the spirit we need to pray dear God have your way in my
life today have your way in the preacher's life today have your way in my family's
life today because out there there's a battle in here there's a battle and your glory
is worth all of it but this can't be the only time that we pray we ought to pray
before we leave the house on Sunday morning we need to pray Monday morning we need

to pray Monday at lunch it just needs to be just part of what we do it's kind of like
breathing that I don't turn left and I don't turn right without
praying to God and consulting God
and it's not just asking for things it's a prayer
of gratitude and thank you and praising you
and that I'm interceding on behalf of other people
Paul says praying always with all prayer
and supplication in the spirit
what else kind of prayer is
it's alert prayer
look what he says next
watching thereunto
that word watching literally means to keep on alert
if you want to take it this way it's like praying with our eyes open
can I tell you that scripture mentions the word watch and pray
often times
those two words go together
Jesus says in Matthew 26
watch and pray
lest you enter into temptation
says in Mark chapter 13
referring to the coming of the son of man he
says watch and pray you know not when the time is
I love this in Nehemiah brother Nehemiah chapter 4 verse 9
I love this picture and this is kind of where I want to go with this he says
nevertheless we made our prayer unto God
and set a watch against them day and night because of them who were them
anybody know who them is
who it was the enemy
what was happening
Nehemiah was going back to rebuild that wall
and this ain't about sticks and bricks it ain't about none of that it's about
the city of God that was destroyed by the judgment of God because of sin and God
preserved his people and now they were going back and there was a great work to do
and they purposed themselves that they wanted
to get after the work so you know what they did
they prayed they prayed they prayed you know what else they did while they prayed
they watched
it's the picture of being alert and awake now listen here Christians should never
be paranoid people and I met too many of them we're scared of everything
I mean we're scared of the stock market we're scared of disease we're scared
of everything well I don't have to be paranoid
yet at the same time I must not be loyal to sleep
the Christians are to be alert
and sober
and vigilant why
because the adversaries the devil is a roaring lion seeking about who he may devour

so that as I'm praying I'm praying with an awareness it's a preacher awareness
or what not just my life but the things around us I talked about growing up in the
70s and 80s there was something that started back then
and y'all seen the sign it was called neighborhood watch
y'all drive through a subdivision y'all didn't
hardly have subdivisions I grew up in a subdivision
and there'd be a sign in the subdivision
and there's a triangle sign and it's like somebody looking over the fence
and it said neighborhood watch what'd that mean
what'd that mean
that means everybody's looking
everybody's looking around looking after each other like if you ain't supposed
to be here we're gonna keep an eye on you everybody's looking out for each other's
stuff and that hit me today shouldn't that be a wonderful
picture of the church not being snoops but what I mean sister Mabel that you're
watching out for me Donna that you're watching out for Deborah that we're not just
praying about ourself but we're watching we're alert we're aware of all the
needs that's going on in everybody else's family of the needs that's going on in the
community how often are we praying continually consistently
we're praying
in the spirit
of God
thanksgiving with alertness
what else kind of prayer is it look here in the same verse
it's persevering prayer
he says praying always with all prayer
and supplication in the spirit
and watching thereunto with all
perseverance
and supplication for all saints
persevering prayer
I thought about the parable of the
the persistent widow it's in Luke chapter 18
some of y'all are familiar with that
parable that story
it's about a woman in a
in a place and the
the authority there I think he says he
regarded not
man nor feared God
this widow had been wrong so she come to him and she began to daily daily daily daily
come and weary him to avenge me of my adversary
and Jesus is teaching about prayer and finally this
unjust judge says yet because this widow troubleth me
I will avenge her lest by her continuing weary she coming she weary me now I'm not
saying we wear God down but what I'm saying it is a picture of persistent prayer
it is a picture of perseverance it is a picture of someone that though they did

not get the answer they do not quit they keep coming they keep going they keep going
we find the same thing with Elijah in 1st Kings chapter 17
that contest on Mount Carmel
Elijah's there and God come down and he soaked up the wood and the fire
and the sacrifice and everything there
and Elijah fell down on his face and began to pray
God why because God had promised rain you know when you can stay persistent in prayer
is when you're praying based upon the promises of God
God had promised
rain
so he prayed one time two times three times four times five times
six times and there's nothing
but he kept going and y'all know that beautiful story
you go look again
he says I see a cloud in the distance about the size of a man's hands and if you
allow me to paraphrase you better get up and get gone because it's about to pour
persistent prayer
persevering prayer but there's another one that was on my mind this afternoon
and I've never connected these two things together
and that is a prayer of Paul concerning the thorn
in his flesh because sometimes I think we get
this persevering
prayer wrong
what does Paul say about this thorn in his flesh
that was given to me a messenger of Satan to buffet me
that he besought the Lord thrice that it might be departed from him that this
wasn't just something small I mean it was something
that wore him it was something that Satan
spoke through by the way Satan didn't give it
God gave it preacher how do you know God gave it because the reason
because the reason that it was given was to keep him humble
lest he should be exalted above measure
you know Satan can speak to the things that God gives you
he can
but Paul prayed and he prayed and he prayed and he prayed
and I say he persevered in prayer
preacher what does it mean to persevere in prayer
you might want to write this down
persevering in prayer doesn't mean you pray
till you get your way
it means praying till God gets his way in you
and that's what happened
with Paul
you say did he win
yep he did
Lord I need you to take this thing away from me because I can't take it anymore
Lord I need you I need you I need you

and he prayed and he prayed and he prayed and he prayed
and we had no record of it ever being gone but I say he persevered in prayer
how do I know
because Christ
answered in his way he says my grace is made sufficient my grace is sufficient
it wasn't till Paul got his way
it was when the Lord got his way in Paul
see persevering in prayer
means praying till we get
his answer
and then trusting his answer
y'all follow me now because some of us struggle with this
persevering in prayer
I can't tell you how many mamas in here
are praying your guts out I know you are for
your daughter or your son or your grandchildren
you are praying and you are praying
and you are praying and you are praying for
we have multiple things that we are praying for
what I want to tell you is don't stop
you keep praying you keep praying
not till you get your answer
but you pray until you get God's answer
and then when you get God's answer
you trust him
for the answer that he has given you
and by the way
there is no timetable ever given about how long it takes to persevere and pray
brother Brian I have been at this for 10 years and
keep going
keep going one of those great things about Paul storing the flesh
that I just love you know what he ended up doing about that thing
he quit asking God for it to be removed you know where it got him to
he actually got to a place that he praised God for it
he praised God that it was there
because it was through this thing he says that the power of God
rests upon me that word rest is a peskimo
and it's like a tent he said because of this thing that's
in my life and I've learned the sufficient grace of God
it is through this that I have remained humble
that the very power of God
rests upon me what I'm getting at right here
is prayer is not meant to change God
prayer is meant
to change us and if it takes these things
this persevering
and daily prayer

this thorn in the flesh this trouble in our life whatever it is
if that's what God needs to keep us on our knees
and where we need to be
to where we begin to get changed
and transformed
we need to thank God for it
and we keep praying
and we keep praying
the I haven't had a lot of those but I tell you
I've learned a little bit about this I guess it comes with part of the job
it's praying
about
pastoring
somebody
called and asked if I'd preach revival
I said yeah when is it
he said so and so I said let me get my calendar out he
said you need to pray about it so what are you going in
no I ain't got to pray about it
God called me to preach if I ain't working and I'm in town I'm coming
preaching somewhere and being a pastor is two different things
but going to pastor somewhere
I have learned
I have learned
you know what we all have
we've all got what we want
we all have a desire
and sometimes we think we're floating on ourselves well
you know you know what else God knows what you want
you might as well say it God knows what we want
but I've gotten here to go Lord
you know what I want
but I want what you want
but honestly
I got no idea what I'm supposed to do
so all I know to do is I'm going to keep praying
and I'm going to keep praying
and I'm going to keep praying God
till I get
your answer
he never gave that answer to Mitzi she's not the preacher that answer has been given
to me but I'm beginning to learn now a little bit that if I'll go to the Lord and go
I want to take my concerns and I'm going to put
those things away hey and I'll just say this
there's places that I've served that I didn't really
it was where God called me
wasn't necessary where I wanted to be

but can I drop some knowledge on y'all
that's irrelevant
what you want to do
and what God wants you to do
it makes no difference if those things agree or not
but now
it's called me to where I want to be and it's where I'm supposed to be but what I'm saying I've learned a little bit about that that if
we'll just keep praying and we'll just keep praying
because we're willing to do whatever God wants us to do God will provide an answer
but it's not us changing God it's not us getting our way it's God getting his way in us
how we're supposed to pray in light of this spiritual battle that we're facing
in light of the glory that God is to do Cindy you ought to pray continually
them grandbabies are counting on their grandmama to have a life style of prayer
I mean daily daily pray without ceasing an attitude of prayer
that you're praying in the spirit you are led by the spirit you are yielding
to the spirit in your life and by the way
you can't pray in the spirit if you walk contrary to the spirit all the other days
that you're awake except when you pray
no
continual prayer praying in the spirit
the scope of prayer thanksgiving alert prayer we're looking
watching
persevering prayer I want to close with this one
there's a preacher prayer
I never noticed this
and Paul says that for me
that utterance may be given unto me
that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel
for which I am an ambassador in bonds
that therein I may speak boldly
as I ought to speak
anybody know
where Paul's at as he writes this letter
he's in prison
in chains
he's an ambassador in bonds
Paul does not pray for release
he does not pray for freedom
he does not pray for his health
he does not pray for any of those things he does not pray for a more comfortable cot
but he asks God's people
to pray
now folks I will not be offended
if you pray for my health
but I long for you to pray

for my preaching
that's what Paul is saying
y'all pray
pray for my preaching that I may speak open my mouth boldly to make known
the mystery of the gospel I want you to pray for your preachers preaching above all
other things not so that I become popular
not so that I would get more invites to preach revivals I want you to pray
that brother Brian would practice what he preaches I want you to pray that I would
preach with boldness not arrogance boldness is simply
confidence in who God is that I would preach with humility
that I would preach with clarity that I would preach
with sincerity that I would preach with accuracy
pray for your preacher that I would be filled with him so that I can give it to other
people pray for your preacher that I can learn more so that I can teach better
pray for your preacher that my mind would be guarded
to avoid discouragement pray for your preacher that I would be faithful to the call
Paul is saying listen we're in a battle all of these things are going pray pray pray
pray pray pray all the time pray pray for Haley pray for your kids pray for Brandon
but don't stop to thank God for all that he's given
you but pray in the spirit because you're in a battle
against a wicked wicked wicked one that we're all together as a church we're looking
and we keep going and we keep going
pray for your preacher
please
that my mouth
may say those things
that edify and build up
I want to close with this last verse
and I've never really
appreciated it verse 24
Paul says grace be with all them
that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity
amen
brother Brian what's so big about that
love
our Lord
Jesus Christ
tell her I have the same Savior that Paul has
but I love him
not just in word
but that I love him
in sincerity
and passion
and in truth
Paul's prayers Lord
may grace be upon these people
church we finally know in this book

but may may this
be us may this be us when it comes to every single bit of it
that we are his workmanship we've been adopted
and accepted and sealed by his grace and his power
that we've been called to be husbands and fathers and mothers and wives
that we're engaged in a battle that's so much greater than any of us can recognize
but God has given us an armor that we can stand
by the might of his power but we gotta be people
that pray that pray that pray that pray
praise God we can stand
let's pray heavenly father
thank you
for your word
thank you for your truth
and God I thank you that you have called
your children to yourself and have given them
not just a power but a privilege
to commune with the creator
but then Lord I think our greatest problem often times
is our own self sufficiency
our own blindness to our weakness
that we don't come to you
continually
consistently
passionately and spiritually in prayer
Lord help us to heed
help us to heed your word
Lord for our good and your glory
in Jesus name I pray amen Let's stand, please.