

*No theme...just random thoughts for 10 weeks!*

*Week 2 – “Pray For World Peace”*

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone.

1 Timothy 2:1

Everything Christians think, do, say, and demonstrate should be done in an all-out effort to bring about peace in the world. After all worshipping the Prince of Peace is the best reason to demonstrate his directions to the Disciples. Remember his words? “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Then Paul writes a letter to his buddy Timothy and “urge(s) that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for everyone.” Paul didn’t write “for your friends.” He clearly noted “for everyone.”

This sacred responsibility each of us share as followers of the Christ encourages us to make our words and actions uplifting. Praying for others regardless of their beliefs, actions, or reputations is certainly a challenge. From my personal perspective, praying for others affords a reason to move on in life. Rather than fret about global issues, we can feel a powerful sense of purpose when we turn within and pray.

Going forward in the post pandemic era that is now a renewed pandemic, we find ourselves immersed in more daily news reports about destruction, death, suppression, oppression, and cruelty. For example, the creation has, for the second time in just over ten years shattered the lives of the people in the Island Nation of Haiti.

Serving as the youth director of Casselberry United Methodist Church in Florida, I set the intention for the youth to focus on Missions. Because of the United Methodist presence in Haiti we connected with Missionaries and arranged trips for the youth and sponsors. Preparing for the first trip to Haiti, we determined to pray for the people we would be serving. We had a special 3Ps whenever we talked. We Prayed, Planned, and Packed for Haiti.

The enthusiastic group of mini-missionaries arrived at a small airport near Miami filled with excitement. We soon learned that the private airplane had mechanical problems after arriving to board for our flight to Port au Prince. The first time saw the aircraft, the pilot was under the plane removing and replacing parts. The vision was troubling, but the delay gave us time take a final 3Ps moment for the mission.

Now is a different time and more chaos is in the air, but like then, I believe now is the time to pray more for others than we do for ourselves. Think about it this way...If all Christians collectively prayed for other people in need of supplication, at least one of the entreaties to God is likely to be someone mentioning our names and our needs.

As we focus on day-to-day life, we may lose sight of our ability to truly contribute to world peace. Most people think, "I'm just one person. How can I possibly affect the whole wide world." We must believe that praying for people we know and pleading for them to pray for others, the law of large numbers can actually encircle the planet. Think of it as the "Six Degrees of Separation from Kevin Bacon."

Some of you have heard me say "Jesus was like an Amway Distributor." (*Please remain calm and stay with me on this thought. Ask God to give you peace and understanding before ending your reading.*)

Here is my thinking. Jesus recruited, taught and dispersed 12 disciples. When he sent them out, he gave them the challenge to repeat what he taught them. If each of the twelve, recruited twelve and sent their twelve out with the same directive to teach and empower twelve more, and each of those did the same we can see the results just as Jesus would have expected it to occur. It's like 12 to the 10<sup>th</sup> power.

The base number "12" coupled with the exponent "10" would equal 619,173,642,224. Spell that out and read six hundred and nineteen billion, one hundred and seventy three million, six hundred and forty two thousand, and two hundred and twenty four. Okay, I promise, no more math from me. Just know that Jesus' formula for reaching "all the world" with the "Love your neighbor message" is within our power to achieve. Just begin.

There is enormous power in cultivating a consciousness of peace and how many people it can touch. We must feel certain that our words and actions create a ripple effect that reaches far beyond what we feel is possible. Perhaps setting aside worries, wishes, and wants for others will help us relax, release our fears, and open our hearts and minds to focus on the peace and perfection of God. We spread the word by envisioning serenity, asking God to provide global Peace and Grace, and become active in prayer cycles.

Pray for World Peace!

Peace always,  
Ted