Reading Ephesians Together Pt12:
The Power of Corporate Supplication

Ephesians 6:18

The Power of Prayer & Supplication

Always

- There is an undeniable call in Scripture for the people of God to *always be praying*.
- We are to live prayer-filled lives, individually and corporately.

Prayer

- Did you notice the odd nature of this exhortation? Paul says "please pray always with all prayer." Huh? :)
- It comes from the Greek word *proseuchē*. This word for prayer, as used in Scripture, can mean "prayer addressed to God" or "a place set apart or suited for the offering of prayer" or "a synagogue."
- Prayer in this context implies corporate prayer in the setting of worship, an earnest, humble pleading by a congregation of saints.

Supplication

- Supplication in our Text is the Greek word *deēsis*. It means "a seeking or petitioning, an asking, an entreating" because there is a severe "want, need, or lack."
- Supplication carries a "begging" (if you will) connotation. Paul isn't trying to be misunderstood here as both words (prayer and supplication) are essentially saying the same thing.

Daniel's Prayer (Bible Study review)

1. He set his face to seek the Lord.
2. His prayer was mostly confession.
3. His prayer was self-effacing.
4. He knew that God is holy and man is not.
5. He called on God for mercy.
6. He prayed for the whole Nation of Israel.
7. He knew God's judgement was right.
8. He pleaded with God.
9. Gabriel was "caused" to fly to Daniel.
10. Gabriel's statement should get our attention.

PERSONAL DEVOTION/FAMILY WORSHIP QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

1. Read Daniel's prayer again this week.
2. Discuss what your home, our church, and indeed the Nation and world might be like if we prayed in this manner.
3. Consider again the results of the prayer: heaven moved! Discuss.

Catechism

Question: Can anyone perfectly keep the commandments of God?

Answer: Since the fall no ordinary man can perfectly keep the commandments of God in this life but breaks them every day in thought, word and action.