

Faith Lift: Everything To God In Prayer

There once was a small town that had historically been "dry." (that means they don't sell or serve alcoholic beverages). When a local businessman decided to build a bar, a group of Christians from a local church were concerned and planned an all-night prayer meeting to ask God to intervene. It just so happened that shortly thereafter lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground. The owner of the bar sued the church, claiming that the prayers of the congregation were responsible, but the church hired a lawyer to argue in court that they were not responsible. The presiding judge, after his initial review of the case, stated that "No matter how this case comes out, one thing is clear. The bar owner believes in prayer and the Christians do not."

I believe in prayer. I believe our world is in need of prayer. I believe we are in need of prayer. I believe we need to pray. I believe we need to be led in prayer. This Sunday when I will be preaching on Luke 11:1-13 where Jesus teaches his disciples about prayer.

In light of the recent tragedies, in St. Paul, Minnesota, Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Dallas, Texas, I talked to my friend Boris Caldwell to get his perspective. Boris is an ordained Elder at Mt. Rose, City of Refuge, Church of God in Christ in Crosby, Texas. I met Boris through the two Martin Luther King Jr. Marches here in Baytown. Boris is the founder of Mission Baytown, an organization that provides assistance to those in need and organized those Marches. Recently, their board used our Fellowship Hall for one of their board meetings. Those of you who attended the Holocaust March of Remembrance at Memorial Baptist this year will remember Boris who led us in prayer.

I hope you will be able to be with us this Sunday as I preach about prayer, as we sing about prayer and as we will pray and are led in prayer. I believe, in the words of this coming Sunday's closing hymn, we need to take "everything to God in ... prayer."