

IN TOUCH

BACK TO THE BASICS: PRAYER

Dear Friend:

For those of you who could care less about sports, please bear with me for just a few moments! August is the month football players, soccer players, cross-country runners, etc. get back to the basics. Why? Training camp/practices are in full swing. In the state of Ohio High School teams are officially allowed to have coaches fully involved in "hitting"/contact drills. Personally, I drudged going to practice in August, but I was able to bare it, knowing the first game was just around the corner. Every sport uses August to get back to the basics. In football basics are running, blocking, and tackling. In soccer they are dribbling, passing, and maneuvering. In cross country they are long runs, sprints, and middle-distance training.

What does all of this have to do with prayer? Just as August brings back the practice of basics in sports, so too is prayer a basic in the Christian life. Beginning this Sunday, I will launch a short sermon series on the basics of the Christian faith. Doing the basics well in sports is crucial to a team, praying well and praying daily is a basic necessity of the Christian faith.

Are you too busy to pray? Most Americans live a busy life, in reality we are too busy NOT to pray. Maybe the busier you are the more you should pray. You may say: "I'm so busy I don't have times to pray". Let me ask you a question, are you really busier than Jesus was? Think of his everyday demands and think about the hundreds who clamored for his attention no matter where he went. On the other hand, search the gospels and see how many times they record the fact that Jesus got alone to pray no matter how busy he was.

In I Thessalonians 5:17-18 Paul told the Thessalonians to pray without ceasing. How can we do that and stay engaged in conversation or do our daily job? Paul's meaning in this passage is that yes, we should be in prayer throughout our day but we should also be in a spirit of prayer at all times (more on this on Sunday). Speaking of Sunday I am also going to give actual demonstrations about how to pray without ceasing and how to pray for things like driving by a nursing home, a church, an encounter with a waitress/waiter. Be prepared, I will be looking for volunteers.

See you Sunday, Prayerfully Yours,

Pastor Mike

Prayer Requests: Randy Wickiser (rehab), Pastor Dan Kopp
(cancer), Jessica Pittenger (2 surgeries close together)