



COLOSSIANS – Quarantine vs. Kingdom Life

(The Last Lesson!!!)

You know Paul didn't have much to say specifically about texting or messaging or MineCraft or Roblox. Didn't "LOL" or "BTW" or anything of the sort.

But he did have a lot to say about conversation, specifically conversation with God which we usually refer to as prayer, or simply talking to God.

Let's read about it in our last lesson on Kingdom Life Vs. Quarantine life from Colossians.

Read Colossians 1:3-14; Read Colossians 4:2-4.

1. Pray for others. (Colossians 1:3)

Paul starts his letter to the Christians at Colossae by saying that he always prays for them and thanks God for them.

This may seem simple, but we need to stop and think about how much of our prayers are about us.

We need to be talking to God about other people, not just ourselves. During this time of lockdown, the time we have to talk to God about people is incredible. (I, Pastor Andy, have a very close friend or mine who's life is threatened and hanging in the balance battling with COVID019 right now. And you can be sure my family and I are praying for him night and day). What other things can YOU pray about for your friends and family?

2. Non-stop God conversation. (Colossians 1:9)

Paul says "we have not stopped praying for you."

This doesn't mean that all he has done all day every day is pray for the people at Colossae.

But he doesn't do what we do too often, either. Someone asks us to pray for them, and we do . . . once.

He's saying that on a regular basis, he continues to talk with God about these people. In our lives, we need to be praying and talking to God about our family, friends and other Christians.

It's kind of like an ongoing game of FORTNIGHT (we grab a snack and go back to the game; we're messaging our friends, and pause to get a blanket to get cozier, and then get back to the FaceTime - but with more point and focus!)

3. Pray for help, wisdom, and God-strength. (Colossians 1:3, 9, 11)

Paul mentions in this text that he thanks God for the believers, asks God to give them knowledge and wisdom and God-strength or spiritual power that only comes from God.

This is a helpful little checklist to answer the question: "What do I say when I pray for people?"

You ask God to help them, give them wisdom, and provide them with the strength to endure the challenges of life.

4. Be devoted. (Colossians 4:2)

This is important. Being devoted in prayer means that we are committed to talking with God, especially about others, even when we don't feel like it.

Being devoted means making this a habit or a discipline.

There are some days you will "feel like praying." There will some days you don't.

But you need to decide to pray for other people on a regular basis.

You talk to your friends and family about things and people who are important to you.

You need to make sure you are communicating with God about your family and friends in much the same way.

Dad & Mom Guiding This...

I'm going to guide you in what we'll call a "concert of prayer." This involves people praying out loud.

You don't have to worry about what words to say. God wants to hear you share your thoughts in your words.

Just be respectful. You are talking with the creator of the universe!

We're going to do simple prayers.

I'll start us off by saying something like, "God, we want to tell you who we are thankful for.

Today, I'm very thankful for my family."

Then, when I'm done, someone else will say out loud, "Today, I'm thankful for my parents who take care of me."

Then someone else will share.

We'll go until everyone has had a chance to go.

I know you may not love praying or speaking in a group, but we want everyone to participate.

Do as many of these as you have time for.

End by praying for your family, thanking God for them and asking Him to help each of them have an ongoing conversation with Him, especially about other people.

Lead with the following prompts:

- God, today I am thankful for (people) . . .
- Heavenly Father, today I am thankful for (things, blessings, organizations, the church) . . .
- God, I'd like to ask you to help (person) with (situation or need) . . .
- Heavenly Father, please give my family wisdom. Help them to know you better and be able to make wise choices as they follow you.
- God, sometimes life can be tough, please give (someone) your strength to endure the challenges they are facing right now . . .