

Every church and every person needs to have foundational beliefs that guide and direct life, decisions, direction, and processes. During 'Foundations' The Church at Martinsburg will examine the book of Romans and establish core doctrinal beliefs for life, relationships, and mission. This series more than any we've done before will set the pace and direction for the church.

There is a lot of confusion about what prayer is yet prayer is a central part of the Christian life. The Apostle Paul knew this well. We are nearing the end of Paul's letter to the church at Rome and he makes an impassioned plea for prayer. He is writing from Corinth, with plans to go to Jerusalem to take a relief offering to the saints there, and then come to Rome and possibly Spain in taking the Gospel to unreached areas of the world.

**Growth Questions for 10/16/11 – 10/25/11**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. What does it mean to "strive together" with one another in prayer?
3. What does it mean to pray "by the Lord Jesus Christ"? By the love of the Spirit?
4. How might praying by the Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit correlate to Paul's two prayer requests?
5. Did God answer Paul's prayer? If so, do you think he answered it in the way Paul hoped or expected? (See Acts 21:15 w/Chs. 22-23)

***Living on Mission***

***Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go***

1. About what are you currently "striving" in prayer? Have you considered inviting other Christians to strive together with you? What keeps you from sharing these things with others? OR are you struggling with prayerlessness? Take a moment to repent and to ask God for a deeper love for Him and for prayer.
2. How might praying "by the Lord Jesus Christ" and "by the love of the Spirit" alter the way in which you pray for the conversion of unbelievers? Think this through and then pray for those you know are lost.
3. Do you pray expecting God to answer your way on your terms? Take some time to evaluate your expectations – are they born of faith or self?

**The primary focus of our Scripture passage today is intercessory prayer.  
Praying on behalf of others, to see the work of God go forward.**

**Important Dates**

- 10/28-29/11 Men's Gathering – more info at [www.martinsburgchurch.org](http://www.martinsburgchurch.org)
- 11/13/11 Next Steps w/C@M
- 11/19/11 Operation Thanks!

**COMMUNITY GROUPS DEFINED**

A Community Group is a home fellowship made up of 10-15 people who meet every week to share, study and support one another. A leader leads each group. An average meeting lasts for an hour and a half, followed by light refreshments. They're the place where the real ministry of the church should take place as we study God's Word, while supporting and sharing our lives with one another. Community Groups meet on Sunday,

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights in homes throughout Martinsburg. Visit [groups.martinsburgchurch.org](http://groups.martinsburgchurch.org) for more information.