

***What is a Healthy Church Member***  
**Mark 10 Study Guide**  
A Healthy Church Member is a Prayer Warrior

*For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. In Him we have set our firm hope, that he will deliver us, 11 as you join in working for us by prayer, so that the blessing that comes to us from the prayers of many persons might result in thanksgiving to God by many as they see our deliverance. (2 Corinthians 1:8-11, ESV through 10a; 10b and 11, own translation)*

1) The Bible commands us to pray (see Luke 18:1, Romans 12:12, Ephesians 6:18, and Colossians 4:2, for example). Why? Is prayer a way that we exert our will, changing the world around us? Or is the impact of prayer solely internal – “prayer changes us, not God”? Don’t answer those questions yet! First read the selection from 2 Corinthians 1 above.

- a) What is God teaching Paul through the afflictions he experienced in Asia?
  - b) Is verse 10 a conditional statement? What is Paul’s confidence in?
  - c) What is the relationship between the prayers of the Corinthians and Paul’s deliverance? Where does the “blessing” that Paul refers to in verse 11 come from? Are the prayers of the Corinthians effective?
  - d) What is the final result of the prayers of the Corinthians? (Hint: The final result is not Paul’s deliverance or blessing).
  - e) Now try to answer the questions raised in the opening lines of this question. Does prayer “work”? If so, to what end? What is the relationship between God’s sovereignty and our prayers?
- 2) Now read Thabiti’s chapter on the healthy church member as a prayer warrior.
- a) What is the importance of prayer of our seeing ourselves as God’s beloved, adopted children?

- b) What does “praying in the Spirit” mean according to Thabiti?
- c) What four categories of people does Thabiti emphasize that we must pray for?
- d) How can you pray more effectively for pastors?
- e) How can you pray more effectively for fellow church members?
- f) Given our study of 2 Corinthians 1:11, how important are these prayers?
- g) Explain why it is important to pray for those who persecute and abuse us.

3. Consider Thabiti’s question on page 114 as well as “A Final Word” on pages 115-17. Make up a prayer plan for yourself. What role can this small group play in helping all of us together to become the healthy church members and prayer warriors God intends us to be?