

From This Corner
GOT A PRAYER?
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When things get bad we frequently hear someone say, “We don’t have a prayer!” This is a sorry state of affairs because in my understanding if we do not have a prayer we are in big trouble. It means that in the particular situation God cannot even help us. I have seen or have been involved in a few situations like that. An good solution seemed out of the question. It seemed that the project would be lost or great damage would come to something important. In those situations, despair and even depression would seem appropriate.

While reading the Bible the other day I came across some good news. It seems that we are never in a situation where we do not have a prayer. You can find this assurance in John 17: 20-25. It is there that Jesus indicates that he has a prayer for us. The prayer is that we will embody his nature, be able to do Kingdom work, and that God will become known through that reality. Therefore, it seems that in being the church we always have a prayer. It is Jesus’ prayer for us even when we do not have a prayer for ourselves.

This piqued my interest. If this is true for us as the church, is it also true for the individual Christian? Sure enough, it seems we always have a prayer. In Romans 8: 26-27 Paul tells us that the Spirit helps us in our weakness, and even when we do not know for that which we ought to pray, the Spirit intercedes on our behalf. So again, it seems we always have a prayer. Even in our weakest, most dysfunctional moments, we have a prayer. It is the Spirit’s intercessory prayer for us.

Therefore, it is never true to say we “don’t have a prayer.” We always do. It is God’s prayer for us. So let us drop the words, “we don’t have a prayer” from our vocabulary and get on with it. If God has a prayer for us, what other prayer do we need?