

Title: Superman meet Wonder Woman - Romans 15 22-33

Read:

²²⁻²⁴And that's why it has taken me so long to finally get around to coming to you. But now that there is no more pioneering work to be done in these parts, and since I have looked forward to seeing you for many years, I'm planning my visit. I'm headed for Spain, and expect to stop off on the way to enjoy a good visit with you, and eventually have you send me off with God's blessing. ²⁵⁻²⁹First, though, I'm going to Jerusalem to deliver a relief offering to the followers of Jesus there. The Greeks—all the way from the Macedonians in the north to the Achaians in the south—decided they wanted to take up a collection for the poor among the believers in Jerusalem. They were happy to do this, but it was also their duty. Seeing that they got in on all the spiritual gifts that flowed out of the Jerusalem community so generously, it is only right that they do what they can to relieve their poverty. As soon as I have done this—personally handed over this "fruit basket"—I'm off to Spain, with a stopover with you in Rome. My hope is that my visit with you is going to be one of Christ's more extravagant blessings. ³⁰⁻³³I have one request, dear friends: Pray for me. Pray strenuously with and for me—to God the Father, through the power of our Master Jesus, through the love of the Spirit—that I will be delivered from the lions' den of unbelievers in Judea. Pray also that my relief offering to the Jerusalem believers will be accepted in the spirit in which it is given. Then, God willing, I'll be on my way to you with a light and eager heart, looking forward to being refreshed by your company. God's peace be with all of you. Oh, yes!

Think:

So you're meeting in group and the leaders says "does anyone have anything they would like prayer for?" What's your response? "Not me." You're in Church and the pastor says "OK if you need prayer please come up the front." What's your response? "Not me, that's for the adults." What are you, some sought of Superman. Do you think you are Wonder Woman? Here is Paul, the chap who wrote half the New Testament, asking for prayer and yet you won't ask your leader to pray for you. Jesus prayed to his Father God, that God would ease the burden on him and yet you won't go forward when the pastor offers prayer. OK, so I am making a massive assumption, that you don't ask for prayer, but all too often isn't that what we are like? We think, I'm OK, or my problems don't matter compared to other peoples problems. But the truth is God is interested in all our problems small and big. If you think you can do it without God and you don't need prayer then you are missing the point. Next time the opportunity for prayer comes up, is the next time you should ask God for help.

Pray:

Lord thank you that you care about me and all my needs. Please give me the strength to ask others for prayer. Amen.

Action:

Talking of praying, have you prayed for you leader recently? Do it now, they need Gods help too. Bye.