

Being Priests

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

-James 5:16

We all need priests in our lives. One of the great tragedies among leaders in the church today is that too many of us feel alone and our pride limits us from sharing with others our hurts, sins and failures, and our need for help. Those of us who have committed ourselves to being Christ-followers are vulnerable to the frailties with the results listed above. It has always been a part of God's design for his people that they serve each other as priests.

While we obtain comfort, forgiveness, and encouragement from God, He knows that we also need a hand on our shoulder, a spoken word of blessing and forgiveness, and the help of a friend in our journey of faith. Too often we have seen such assets as weaknesses to our self-esteem or leadership position and have suffered greatly. In some instances ministries and even lives have been forfeited because we didn't ask for a "priest" or we didn't take time to be one to those we knew were in need. Space does not permit me to relate how our leader and brother, Joe became a priest for me during the very darkest days of my human existence when my daughter was murdered.

The apostle Peter reminds us that we are a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). I am not fully sure of all that means, but I do know it gives instruction to how we are to relate to each other. Who is your priest? Who are you serving as a priest? When was the last time you felt cleansed because you heard a brother or sister pray for us, hug us, and tell us that we had been forgiven by God? We all need that in our lives; again and again we need that! I encourage you to be proactive in asking for a priest and in offering to be one.