

## **Lent Day 38**

Thursday April 13, 2017

### **Reading:** Romans 15:22-33

*30 I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.*

### **Reflection**

One line that I always liked growing up was, "I make my own luck." I didn't realize how deeply that thinking actually shaped me though until people wanted to pray for me. When this would happen I had the thought, "I don't need your help." Under that was even a sense of, I don't really need God; I make my own luck, or way, or solution. I knew quickly this was a problem for a Christian and it was especially a problem for someone who was called as a pastor.

What time, experience, maturity and practice has taught me is that I don't make my own luck; not with the really important stuff. The Christian life only really gets going when we come through to the end of ourselves. Then we realize that the stuff that really matters is beyond our ability to accomplish — whether kicking a habit, or maintaining a marriage, or raising children, or following after God's call — and we need to seek after God to give us what we need.

And, one of the things we lack is a real ability to even pray for what we need! So, like Paul with the Romans, we need to go to the community and ask for them to pray with us — to wrestle with God for us — so we might get the help we need. I don't make my own luck. I do need your help. O God, do I need your help. So, also do you need the help of your brothers and sisters in Christ to wrestle with God with you and for you, so just ask.

### **Prayer**

Lord, you call us to things which are beyond us, so help us to bear each other up in prayer by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit. Amen.