



PRAYER IS HARD WORK

Dr. David Jeremiah had some thoughts on Col. 4:12 that challenged me about prayer. The verse says, “ Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect & complete in all the will of God. “. He noted that the word “ laboring “ is sometimes translated “ wrestling “. The image is that of Greek athletes who competed fiercely to win a perishable crown of an olive leaf garland. The right English word to convey Paul’s meaning is “ fiercely “. In our day, we see athletes devote years preparing for the Olympic Games. The intense training they endure & the sacrifices they make are almost inconceivable to those of us have never trained for the Olympics. They train & compete fiercely. Paul speaks of Epaphras as one who prayed with this kind of fierce intensity. True biblical praying is hard work! It requires time, labor, continuance, striving, endurance, wrestling, & faithfulness. Someone says, “ I would pray more, but it’s so hard. “ You’re right! That is the nature of persistent prayer. It is indeed hard work. PRAYER IS HARD WORK! Let us determine to become prayer warriors like Epaphras, praying fiercely for our families, our churches, our country, & for precious souls.

