

may 7

all hand on deck

"Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning's womb." psa 110:3

all hands on deck is a call for all members of a ship's crew to come to the deck, usually in a time of crisis. (a "hand" is a member of a ship's crew.) we're under attack! all hands on deck! all hands on deck! man your posts! it's supposed to fill everyone's heart with dread at the sound of the command: "all hands on deck!"

well, the war is raging and we have lost too many of the "bravehearts" to the battle already. lost perhaps because someone else was not willing to come to their aid. too many remain as spectators only in this royal battle. when the call is made for "all hands on deck," even the most insignificant one not manning their assigned station means someone else would have to step up.

we are not just believers in Christ. "you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 pet 2:9

we in the western world know so little about the ultimate power a king holds over his subjects. even in today's world kings do not hold the power they used to.

their word used to hold life and death itself.  
likewise, we fail to understand what it means to be a priest unto almighty God - holding more power than any earthly king.

everyone is not called to serve in the five-fold ministry - "and He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." eph 4:11 what was the purpose of the five-fold ministry? "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry." eph 4:12 it was to equip us so we might go out and minister to others.

does it ever occur to us to pray for our pastor as they might be going through unknown difficulties. just because someone is used in the ministry doesn't make them exempt from doubts and trials facing us all. if anything, they perhaps need more attention since their burden includes others as well as their own.

when the children of israel were in one of their most precarious positions, what happened next would mean either victory or defeat. the arms of moses were beginning to tire as the battle raged on. as long as he held the staff of God high the chosen prevailed, but a lowering of the standard let the enemies advance. the solution - "aaron and hur held his hands up - one on one side, one on the other - so that his hands remained steady till sunset." exo 17:12 victory was won because he received aid.

moses, who regularly talked with the sovereign God needed aid. can anyone living expect less than he required? we draw from our teachers so much, and that

is as it should be, but the burden is not theirs alone. we have a burden to follow their example. "freely you have received; freely give." matt 10:8

"give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. for with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." luke 6:38 i'm not just talking about material needs. i'm talking about when you touch the hearts of those Jesus loves - in like measure you will reap a deeper intimacy with Him.

then we will be sure to receive the greeting we all long to hear: "well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. enter into the joy of your lord." matt 25:21 so heed the call: "all hands on deck."