

Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul

Paul's Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise and Thanksgiving

- One of the most wonderful things about Paul's prayers is that they consistently begin with praise and worship and end with praise and thanksgiving.
- Ephesians 5:19-20—"giving thanks always for all things unto God. . ."
- Colossians 3:15, 17
- I Thessalonians 5:18

Prayers Praise and Thanksgiving

- Romans 16:25-27
- I Corinthians 1:4-9
- II Corinthians 2:14
- I Thessalonians 1:2-4
- I Timothy 1:17
- I Thessalonians 2:13
- We need to press through to praise.

Concluding Thoughts

- Prayer is a dispensational topic. Our prayer life today as members of the Body of Christ functions differently from Israel's in time past.
- When Israel had broken the law and was living in sin God would not even hear their prayers:
 - Psalms 66:18
 - Proverbs 15:29
 - Isaiah 59:1-2
- Romans 5:1-2--All our sins have been forgiven. We have God's very righteousness imputed to our account (justification). Therefore, we have direct and uninhibited access to God at all times through prayer. We enjoy and intimacy with God that Israel never possessed.

Concluding Thoughts

- Because the Holy Spirit permanently indwells and seals believers today in the dispensation of Grace Paul offers a completely new paradigm for prayer.
- I Thessalonians 5:17—Pray without ceasing.
 - Acts 3:1—under the Law there were specific hours and places where prayers were to be offered.
 - Daniel 6:10—Daniel prayers toward Jerusalem 3 times a day.
 - Psalm 55:17—how often was Daniel praying? What were the disciples doing in Acts 3:1? They were praying in line with how Israel was supposed to pray.

Concluding Thoughts

- Romans 12:12—tells us to continue instant in prayer, “instant” means to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing, to continue all the time in one place.
 - Romans 1:9—“make mention of you in my prayers”
 - Ephesians 1:16—“making mention of you in my prayers”
 - Philippians 1:3—“upon every remembrance of you”
 - I Thessalonians 1:2—“making mention of you in our prayers”
 - II Timothy 1:3—“remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day”
 - Philemon 4—“making mention of thee always in my prayers”
- For Paul think about someone was an opportunity to bring them before the throne of Grace.

Ephesians 1:15-23—A Prayer Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of Him

- This prayer contains four major parts.
- The Ephesians would be give the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they might:
 1. Know God
 2. Know what is the hope of their calling
 3. Know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints
 4. Know the exceeding greatness of his power toward us-ward who believe

Ephesians 3:14-21—A Prayer to be Strengthened in Your Inner Man

- The prayer contains four major parts.
- According to God the Father's riches in glory Paul prays that the Ephesians would be:
 1. Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.
 2. That Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith.
 3. Through being rooted and grounded in love might be able to comprehend with all saints the breadth, length, depth, and height and know the love of Christ which passeth all knowledge.
 4. Filled with all the fullness of God.

Romans 15:5-6—A Prayer to be Likeminded

- Once again there are some things that Paul wants God the Father to grant or give unto the Romans:
 - likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus
 - with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:9-11—A Prayer for Abounding Effectual Love

- Paul prays the following on behalf of the Philippians:
- That your love may abound more and more
 - in knowledge
 - in all judgment
- That ye may approve things that are excellent
- That ye may be sincere and without offence until the day of Christ
- Be filled with all the fruits of righteousness

Colossians 1:9-14—A Prayer to be Filled With the Knowledge of His Will

- Since the day Paul heard of their love in the Spirit in verse 8 he did not cease to pray for the Colossians that they might:
 - be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding
 - walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing
 - be fruitful in every good work
 - increasing in the knowledge of God
 - strengthened with all might according to his glorious power unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness
 - giving thanks unto the father

Observations

- Everything single thing that Paul prayers on behalf of the churches in spiritual in nature and concerns their inner man.
- Rather than praying for stuff. Paul prays that the saints would be patient and learn how to be content regardless of their physical state.

Paul's Prayer Paradigm

- Philippians 4:6-7—Paul's paradigm for prayer is simple: Have a concern? Pray right then and there.
- Notice that the promise is not that you will get everything you ask for. Rather that the peace of God will keep you heart and mind. Keep means to guard or the set a military watch over your heart and mind.
- The practical working of this verse is determined by your thought life. Your emotions will respond to what you think about.
- If you think on the things in verse 8 your will not be full of care in verse 6. Knowing that the peace of God which comes from the God of peace which passes understanding will keep your heart and mind.