

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

Prayer is arguably the most difficult of the Christian disciplines and yet the most important. It requires one to truly appreciate the importance of prayer and focus. For it to be effective, it has to be done according to God's will and in Jesus' name.¹ Throughout the gospels, Jesus was clear on the importance of prayer. When Jesus cleansed the Temple, he said that it was to be a house of prayer.² When the disciples could not cast a demon out of a young boy, Jesus said that it could only be done through prayer.³ Jesus had a custom of devoting himself to prayer throughout the night.⁴ When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, he gave them a format to follow and encouraged them to be persistent.⁵

Paul had much to say about prayer. He taught that the Holy Spirit is central to our prayer life.⁶ He prayed for those in the churches to follow God and to not do wrong.⁷ He asked for the churches to pray for him and those with him.⁸ He instructed Christians to pray without ceasing.⁹

How often have we said to people that we would be praying for them and forget all about it as soon as we left company? It is often difficult to know how to specifically pray for people. In Ephesians 1:15-19, Paul tells how he had been specifically praying for the Ephesians. It is very helpful to us to know how to pray for others.

Let's break down Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-19 and learn some ways to perhaps make our own prayer lives more effective.

¹ John 14:13

² Matthew 21:13

³ Mark 9:29

⁴ Luke 6:12

⁵ Luke 11:1-13

⁶ Romans 8:26

⁷ 2 Corinthians 3:7

⁸ 1 Timothy 5:25

⁹ 1 Thessalonians 5:17

His PRAYER WAS INFORMED. HE HAD INTEREST.

V. 15 - "For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints,"

A CHARACTERISTICS OF PAUL'S PRAYING
① CONSTANT
② THANKFUL

V. 16 - "do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;"

- 1 Timothy 5:17

CONSTANT → ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.
THANKFUL → PROBABLY MORE SPECIFIC

V. 17 - "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him."

NO DEFINITE ARTICLE

JAMES 1:5

CONTINUING EDUCATION

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF HIM
DEEPER KNOWLEDGE OF HIM

→ IN HIM IS LIFE!

REMEMBER LUKE 11. OUR FATHER, WHO ARE IN HEAVEN.

V. 18 - "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"

Kardias → THE INNER MAN

I THESS. 4:13 AS THOSE WHO HAVE NO HOPE.

THE DEEPEST PART OF A PERSON.

→ RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD. CREATED THE WORLD.

V. 19 - "and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might"

ROMANS 8:28