

PRAYING WITH PAUL



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Learning From Paul's Prayers

During January 2018 we had a month of prayer during which we preached on prayer, gather mid-week to pray and had more 'all together' prayer times during our Sunday services. These seasons of focussed prayer are, of course, times to pray together – but they are also times to equip each other to pray.

'Praying with Paul' was a series aimed at just that – we looked at some of Paul's prayers and paid particular attention to the structure and focus of his prayers. The prayers we looked at are found in the following scriptures;

- 2 Thessalonians 1v1-12
- Colossians 1v3-14
- 1 Thessalonians 2v17-3v13
- Ephesians 3v16-21

At the end of each sermon the preachers outlined a 'structure' and we spent time during our service praying 'like that'. This booklet is a collection of those outlines and our hope is that they help you as you grow in your prayer life. To get the most out of this resource you'll need to listen to the sermons/look at the presentations that are linked to in each section.

Many people find it helpful to start praying using a structure, and that over time that 'structure' becomes a natural 'help' rather than a rigid structure. The goal however is to pray more!

We hope this resource helps you in that pursuit.

The Redeemer Team

PRAYING WITH PAUL #1

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

[SERMON LINK](#)

¹ Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. ⁵ All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ⁶ God is just: he will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. ¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The PERSPECTIVE he has (The future coming of Christ)
2. The PRIORITY of his prayers (God's Glory through His Fruitful People)
3. The POWER he looks to (The Grace of God)
4. The PRACTICALITIES of his prayer (Thankfulness, Faithfulness, Request)

PRAYER HELP

- 1) Pick 2 people
 - e.g. a family member/housemate/colleague and your Life Group
- 2) Give thanks to God for specific fruitfulness in their lives for 2 min each
 - e.g. patience, generosity, love, no unwholesome language, serving
- 3) Choose a verse/truth that promises God's power and help and ask God to work that into the people you are praying for
 - Titus 2:11-14

PRAYING WITH PAUL #2

1 Thessalonians 2v17-3:13

[SERMON LINK](#)

*¹⁷ But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavoured the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, ¹⁸ because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy. **3** ¹ Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's co-worker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, ³ that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.... ⁴ For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁵ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.*

SERMON OUTLINE

1. CELEBRATE!
2. PRAY FOR MORE!

PRAYER HELP

HOW TO CELEBRATE?

Verse 9 - 'How can we **thank** God enough for you?'

- For Christians you know, where God is working in their lives - particularly new Christians growing in faith and love
- Thank God for people He has put in your life - especially those who have supported and mentored you

HOW TO PRAY FOR MORE?

Verse 10 - 'pray most earnestly night and day

- Pray for more growth in the lives of Christians you know
- Pray for faith and steadfastness: v8 'standing firm in the Lord'
- Pray for people to live holy and blameless lives
- Pray for love to abound

PRAYING WITH PAUL #3

Colossians 1:9-14

[SERMON LINK](#)

³**"We always thank God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith** in Christ Jesus and of the **love** that you have for all the saints, because of the **hope** laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard of before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit."⁹ **"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray** for you, asking that you may be **filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit** in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God**. May you be **strengthened with all power**, according to his glorious might, for all **endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father**, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has **delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved son**, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins".

SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) BEGINNING AND ENDING IN THANKSGIVING
- 2) THE EXTENT OF PAUL'S PRAYER
- 3) THE PERSISTENCE OF PAUL'S PRAYING
- 4) THE LINK BETWEEN SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND WHAT PAUL PRAYS FOR

PRAYER HELP

- 1) Pray for a church you know of, or particular individual/s in that church, thanking God for his fruitfulness in their lives.
- 2) Ask God to fill them with the knowledge of his will so that they will go on living lives pleasing to him.
- 3) Ask God to give them his power for this, to endure with patience and joy with hearts full of thanksgiving. Thank God for it all!

PRAYING WITH PAUL #4

Ephesians 3:14-21

[SERMON LINK](#)

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. POWER for STRENGTH
2. POWER for PURPOSE
3. POWER for EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE
4. POWER for IMMEASURABLY MORE

PRAYER HELP

Use the following template to pray for others.

Father, I pray that out of your glorious riches you may strengthen _____ with power through your Spirit in his inner being, so that Christ may settle down in every part of his life.

I pray that _____ will have power, to grasp how massive your love is and will really know your love that goes way beyond our understanding. Please fill him with a greater measure of your fullness.

I pray that as more of your power is at work in _____, he will see you accomplish amazing things in him and through him. I ask this in the name of Jesus! Amen!

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