

How to Pray Like Paul

Learning from his prayers
for the New Testament churches

Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 15 October 2023 #2 Ephesus (Part 2)

1. What impacted you most from the Sunday sermon?

Ephesians 1. 15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers...

2. Praying with thankfulness for the people in our church family is also a great spiritual discipline for our souls – why?

Paul's Prayer Request No.1

Ephesians 1. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

3. How, throughout the Bible and human history, has God made himself knowable? How did this contrast with the gods of Ephesus and Rome, and how does it contrast with the gods of other religions today?
4. Why do you think this is Paul's No.1 prayer request for his fellow believers – and why is it a good prayer for all of us?
5. What is our role, and what is the role of the Spirit in our getting to know God better?
6. How will this influence how you pray for yourself, your family, your church?

Paul's Prayer Request No.2

Ephesians 1.18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people. Read also - Ephesians 1.13-14 and Matthew 6.19-21

7. When we live with a secure hope of a glorious inheritance, how does that enable us to live with liberation and generosity and courage in our present life?
8. How will the eyes of our heart be enlightened to 'know the hope' (*know* – is knowing about and experiencing by faith) to which we have been called?
9. In Paul's prayers his chief concern is not their physical or material wellbeing, but their spiritual wellbeing. Does that reflect our prayer priorities for others?

Paul's Prayer Request No.3

Ephesians 1. 19 ...and to know his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Read also – Ephesians 3.16-21

10. What impact would it have in our lives if we 'knew' the power of the Spirit for us who believe?
11. Are we like the couple on the cruise eating pot noodles when the banquet is available to us?