

THE QUEENS MINISTRY

BIBLE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Lesson: Paul's Prayers - Words of Encouragement

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Introduction:

Paul's prayers are Holy Spirit-inspired and cover spiritual specifics. He taught about prayer and encouraged the churches he started to pray. Not only for themselves, but for others of the household of faith and also for him as he continued doing the work of presenting the Gospel message to the world. Paul's prayers were a way of expressing his love for the believers, and to offer encouragement and support, as they continued in their Christian faith.

Some say that Paul's prayers can help shape our own prayer lives. His prayers offer us examples of what we should pray for one another, for all believers, even for ourselves. Do you know someone who needs encouragement or support today, begin to pray for them as Paul, that they will experience GOD's power at work in their lives.

Paul's two longest prayers are recorded in Ephesians 1:16-21 and Ephesians 3:14-21. In Ephesians, Paul prays that believers will understand God's plans and power for them. Paul's prayer for the Philippians emphasizes growing in discerning love. And in his letter for the Colossians, he prays that they are filled with the knowledge of God's will. We will look at several of the letters with Paul's prayers and see what was asked of GOD for the members of the specific church for their growth and maturity.

Objective: Learning from Paul's prayers - to discover what can be gained for our benefit.

Part 2:

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NLT)

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere,^[e] ¹⁶ I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, ¹⁷ asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you

spiritual wisdom^[f] and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.^[g]

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NLT)

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,^[e] ¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.^[f] ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

Colossians 1:3-5, 9-14 (NLT)

³ We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, ⁵ which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. ⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.^[b] ⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11 (NLT)

³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵ for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

⁷ So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹ I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. ¹¹ May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

1 Thess. 3:9-13 (NLT)

How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence. ¹⁰ Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith.

¹¹ May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon. ¹² And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. ¹³ May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and

holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen.

Part 3:

1: Looking at Ephesians 1:15 what two things does Paul say about the believers? They have strong faith and love for other believers.

2: He repeats this also to the Colossians' church in chapter 1 verse 4; what does He say is the reason for these traits – from verse 5?

, Faith in Christ Jesus and love for all God's people , There is confidence of hope for their future with Jesus.

3: Paul tells the readers in several of the letters that he always gives, Thanks and has much Joy and Love for them.

4: Look at Ephesians 1 – what does Paul ask GOD to give the believers in this prayer?

- a) Spiritual wisdom
- b) Insight / Revelation
- c) Grow in the knowledge of God
- d) Understanding of hope flooded within your heart
- e) Know the incredible power of our God

5: Look at Ephesians 3 – what does Paul ask GOD to give the believers in this prayer?

- a) Unlimited resources
- b) Inner strength through his spirit
- c) Understand and experience the love of God
- d) Know the immense power of God to complete you with the fullness of God

e) Christ will make his home in your heart as you trust him.

6: Look at Colossians 1 – what does Paul ask GOD to give the believers in this prayer?

a) Complete knowledge of his will

b) Receive spiritual wisdom and understanding

c) Their lives will honor or please God

d) That their lives will produce good fruit

e) There will be growth and maturity in the knowledge of God

f) You will be strengthen with endurance and patient

g) They will be filled with joy and be thankful

7: Look at Philippians 1 – what does Paul ask GOD to give the believers in this prayer?

a) For your love to grow more and more

b) To keep growing in knowledge and understanding

c) To recognize what's important and what matters

d) To live pure and blameless

e) To fill your life with goodness; good work and good character

8: Look at 1 Thessalonians 3– what does Paul ask GOD to give the believers in this prayer?

a) He wants your love to grow until it overflows

b) He wants their hearts and minds to be strengthen

c) He wants us to live blameless lives

d) He wants us to live holy lives and do what is right

9: In several of the letters – what does Paul call some of the believers?

He called some children of God, Saints and believers

10: In Ephesians 1:23 – Paul writes that the church is? his body

And made in the fullness of his body. Everything was made by him.

11: In Colossians 1:13-14, what 4 items does Paul write that we have as believers in Christ Jesus? 1. Power over darkness, 2. brought us into his kingdom of love, 3 by his blood we have redemption, 4. by his blood, he has given us the forgiveness of our sins.

12: In Philippians 1:13 – what does Paul write that our right living will bring to GOD? Our right living will bring glory and praise to God.

13: 1 Thess. 3:10 – Paul writes that he is praying earnestly to come to the church to visit again – what does he indicate that he desires to do? He desires to fill in the gap of your faith.

14: In Ephesians 3:15-16 – Paul lifts his prayers before GOD who he calls our Creator, who has Unlimited power to do.

15: In Colossians 1:12 – Paul indicates that all believers who live in the light will share in an inheritance of Jesus.

16: Reread the prayers above – list three items that stand out to you from the prayers.

Answers will vary.

17: Think about it! What connecting theme could you assign to the prayers?

Answers will vary.