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Go and make disciples!

E-Devotional

Empowered Prayer (1)

Ephesians 1:15-16 (ESV),

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

Some of the most profound prayers I have noticed are the ones we see written in the Bible. I am continually amazed at the integrity and power with which some of these prayers were prayed. But what is an empowered prayer?

Well, I believe an empowered prayer are the ones we know God hears and answers. With this in mind, one in particular among many came to mind. Namely the prayer that the Apostle Paul prayed over the faithful saints in Ephesus in chapter 1 of the letter he wrote to them.

I have to be honest, when I read the Bible, I am continually looking for more. In other words, I want the type of attitude that hungers and thirsts after righteousness (Matthew 5:6). When I see how effective and powerful, for example, the Apostles were in their lives and ministry, it provokes me to dig deeper. How about you? When you read the Scriptures and see the saints of old and how they walked, do you hunger for what they had?

To start, we have the beginning of a very beautiful prayer that Paul prayed. Here we see the motivation. I believe one of the keys to an empowered prayer is intention or motivation. What is your intention or motivation?

Paul's motivation is pretty clear from what we can read in today's passage. Starting in verse 15 we can see that Paul is praying because he heard of the strong faith in Jesus Christ and the love that these believers had for God's people everywhere. The motivation here is love from a pure heart. I can almost hear Paul's excitement for these believers as he relates to them that since he first heard of the faith and love they have he has not stopped praying for them. Do you

resemble this same kind of love that would motivate you to pray for God's people in this way?

When Paul was mentioning that he was praying without ceasing, he also mentioned that he had not stopped thanking God for them. This is powerful and further illuminates the excitement I see Paul had here. Have you ever felt true gratitude to God for the salvation for another human being?

There are many lessons to learn from such a small passage of Scripture and yet it all points to love and gratitude. A prayer filled with love and thankfulness is sure to be heard on high. However, true love and thankfulness are not merely centered on self nor does it have selfish motivations or intentions. This passage along with many others show us the true definition of love and what it looks like. The truth is that we all are in need of God's love, and what better way to share that than with each other in prayer.

In Christ's Love,

Lights and Perfection, Inc



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