

Bible Studies

I Pray...

Paul opens all of his letters the same way. They conform to a standard way of writing letters current in the first century. He identifies himself as the author and the states who the recipients are;

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Ephesians 1:1

Next he gives a greeting;

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, Galatians 1:3

Finally a thanksgiving to God in which he complements the church on something they excel in;

I thank my God every time I remember you. Philipinas 1:3

This was all standard to a Greek letter, Paul was conforming to the norm, but in about half his letters he adds an additional section. He assures his readers that he prays for them.

What did Paul pray for? For each of these identify what the main thing that Paul prays for then identify the goal of the prayer. **You need a pen.**

Ephesians 1v18-19

Pray:

1

Summary:

Goal:

Why is this important?

Ephesians 3v16-19

Prayer: v16

In the Greek to be strengthened is the opposite of to be discouraged.

How is this done?

Prayer: v17

Prayer: v18

Summary:

Goal:

Is there a hint of unity in this passage?

Why is it important that this happen together?

Is this something we need?

What will be the result if we don't understand this?

Was this prayer for the individual or the Church?

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Philippians 1v9-11

prayer: v9

Goal:

What is the link between love and knowledge?

Love must be intelligent and morally discerning. It is not based on sentiment but a knowledge of God. (*Kent*)

Prayer: v10

Goal:

How does discerning what is best link with love based on knowledge?

(Is this helpful or harmful to my brother)

How can you put this in practical terms?

Prayer: v11

Goal:

Where does this fruit come from?

Summary:

2 Thessalonians 1v11-12

Prayer:

Goal:

Prayer :

Goal:

What is the connection between Glory and Grace?

Colossians 1v9-12

Prayer:

Goal:

How does a life worthy of Christ come into being?

What kind of fruit is Paul praying for?

How would you summarise this kind of prayer?

I would call this kind of prayer *strategic praying*. It goes beyond simple everyday needs, even beyond the special needs we often have. It concentrates on our spiritual maturity.

Do you think this is still a good way to pray? Why?

What other ways are there to pray?

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Ephesians 1v18-19

Pray:

1

Eyes might be open

know the hope

Know our glorious inheritance

know God' s power & Stength

Summary:

Know what you already have & God' s power

Goal:

increasing faith

Why is this important?

2 Peter 1v3

Ephesians 3v16-19

Prayer: v16

2

Strengthened with power

In the Greek to be strengthened is the opposite of to be discouraged.

How is this done?

Prayer: v17

Christ may dwell

Rooted & Established in love

Prayer: v18

Grasp Christs love. Four Dimensions

Summary:

Jesus Love

Goal:

Spiritual strength; maturity, relationship with Christ.

Is there a hint of unity in this passage?

Why is it important that this happen together?

Is this something we need?

What will be the result if we don't understand this?

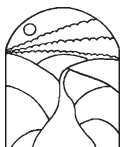
Was this prayer for the individual or the Church?

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Philippians 1v9-11

prayer: v9

love for one another

Goal:

fellowship unity bond of peace

What is the link between love and knowledge?

Love must be intelligent and morally discerning. It is not based on sentiment but a knowledge of God. (*Kent*)

Prayer:v10

Discern what is best

Goal:

Holiness

How does discerning what is best link with love based on knowledge?

(Is this helpful or harmful to my brother)

How can you put this in practical terms?

Prayer: v11

Fruit of righteousness

Goal:

Isaiah 32v17, Glory of God

Where does this fruit come from?

Summary:

God's part in spiritual growth

2 Thessalonians 1v11-12

Prayer:

Be worthy & His power my work in us

Goal:

Service

Prayer :

Jesus be glorified in you

Goal:

Glory of God

What is the connection between Glory and Grace?

Colossians 1v9-12

Prayer:

Knowledge of his will

Spiritual wisdom & understanding

Live a life worthy of God

Please God

Bear fruit

Grow in knowledge of God

Be strengthen with all power

Great endurance, patience, joy

Give thanks

Goal:

be effective Christians

How does a life worthy of Christ come into being?

What kind of fruit is Paul praying for?

How would you summarise this kind of prayer?

I would call this kind of prayer *strategic praying*. It goes beyond simple everyday needs, even beyond the special needs we often have. It concentrates on our spiritual maturity.

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