

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-02 "This I Pray..."

09/07/2025

PHIL 1:9-11 *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, to the Glory and Praise of God.*

Biblical prayer is powerful: NOT wishing, or aimless, or self-serving.

- True prayer comes from a heart "humble before God" ... calling upon Him to do what He can do, for we cannot;
- True prayer is "bold" being confident in His interest in our need, and able to speak freely what is in our heart;
- True prayer draws upon God's "grace through our faith" ... trusting that He has made available to us this "direct access" to call upon Him in our time of need;
- True prayer is a "display of trust" ... we can voice our need, pour out our heart, call upon His promise... Then "walk away" knowing He has heard, and He will answer.

THIS is the way Paul prays! His prayers are *"all of the above."* AND, they are an example for us to follow.

THE FOUNDATION OF PAUL'S REQUEST...

PHIL 1:9 *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment...*

As Paul prayed, he had a definite consciousness of the presence of God, and that he was speaking, not into mere space, but to a Person, and that that Person was listening, giving attention to what he was saying...

His prayer is connected to a declaration already made in VERSE 6 :

PHIL 1:6 *"And I am sure of this, that HE who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of JESUS CHRIST."*

- Much of our Christian growth is OUR responsibility...
- YET: GOD *"who began [started] it ..."* – Enarchomai [Mid Voice] – *to commence on a journey ...* For His own purpose / interest

- AND HE is the one who will *"bring His work to its full and ultimate end"* – Epileleo [Future Active] – *"To bring it to its ultimate and complete end"* [This is absolute ... It WILL happen]

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THIS I PRAY...

Vs 9A *This I pray...* – "Proseuchomai" – *To meet "face to face" in conversation... regarding the point of interest*

Paul spoke to God... God spoke to Paul... He *"knew"* what he desired [Vss 10-11] But He *"sat at table"* with God to *"fine-tune"* what He would *"Ask"* God to do...

This is an amazing quality of "Proseuche" ...

That as we "converse" God helps us to ask exactly what "needs" to be asked ... so that HE can do it...

ROM 8:26 *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know [THE WHAT] to pray as we ought [to know], but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."*

And SO...

Paul calls upon God's ability to:

1. Help them continually produce "acts of 'love'"
2. As a result of their growth in knowledge and discernment
3. Resulting in their ability to make proof of their pursuit of the best things of this life
4. Which will result in their ability to stand sincere in motive, and inoffensive in action
5. These qualities will result in the fruits of righteous living
6. Because they will be allowing the "work of Christ" in them
7. THIS will result in Praise and Glory to God for what HE has done in them