

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-07 “For This Reason...”

10/12/2025

EPH 1:15-17 “For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him...”

PAUL’S INSPIRATION FOR PRAYER

EPH 1:15 “For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints...”

it is said **MARTIN LUTHER** actually added extra hours of prayer when his day promised to be long and busy.

This is like Paul, who engaged in prayer far more than one would expect, given the immense expenditure of time required by:

- His Missionary and Pastoral ministry...
- His “tent-making” work to earn support...
- His Letters and Travels, (which encompassed thousands of miles)

It is striking that although he could address needs and problems with powerful, God-inspired Letters, he did not rely on these alone to accomplish God’s work in the Believers... **PAUL PRAYED!**

- “since I have heard” – Paul was with these Believers for over 2 years, NOW... they had grown greatly since that time...
- Many new Believers have certainly been added to the Church
From the “visiting minister” (Possibly Epaphras from Colosse) Paul collected direct information from his disciples scattered throughout “the Churches” ... He wanted to “know about each one”
- Paul’s Letters are an expression of what he knows about the individual Churches... and the needs they have in their situation... [REV 2 & 3]
- There were also Doctrinal; Practical; or Character issues he was desiring for God to reveal or to develop in the Believers...
- There are many things the Believers need that DO NOT come only through the Teaching and Study of the Word...

THEIR FAITH...

Vs 15A “Because I have heard of your FAITH IN the Lord Jesus...”

- Not faith FOR something...
- This is the “faith they expressed when they came to Jesus Christ”
- This is the foundation of all else we are enabled to have and to do because of our New Birth, and our Incorporation into Christ...
 - **EPH 1:3-14** is a Glorious Summary of what God HAS DONE for us...
 - Paul’s Prayers are for what God MAY Do / Give / Reveal to us
 - In Paul’s Letters notice the difference between Have / Has / Are and May / Might / Should ... Between “IN Christ” and “THROUGH Christ”

THEIR LOVE ...

Vs 15b “and because I have heard of your LOVE toward all the Saints”

- Paul had learned about their growth... especially in this vital area of “Love”
 - Their “Faith in the Lord Jesus...” has directly resulted in their Love toward the Saints...
 - Our “faith” is not only meant to receive the “things” we need for “Life” in this world...
 - But it is also to receive all we need for “Godliness”
- 2 Pet 1:3** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to Life and Godliness, through the knowledge of him...
- Vs 5** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with... “Brotherly-kindness” (Phileo) with “Love” (Agape)
- Love for our fellow-Believers is an expected “out-working” of the Love God has for us... [1 JOHN 4:7- 21]
 - Yet, it is NOT “automatic” – WE must desire it / practice it / strive for it

Consider the contrast between the “LOVE” Paul recognizes in this LETTER and the Rebuke from Jesus the Church just 30yrs later:

REV 2:4-5 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first... If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand...

To “LOVE GOD” and to “LOVE PEOPLE” is NOT optional... It is VITAL