

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-13 “Paul’s Thanksgiving & Prayer”

11/23/2025

COL 1:3-5 “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.

Prayer That Is Not Passive

For Paul, the remembrance of the Saints, and His prayers for them were an “Active” work. He didn’t wait to “remember”... he CHOSE to bring to his remembrance the Church, the Believers, their Faith, their Hope, and their Love.

Similar to Paul’s words in most of his prayers, he chooses to use the words, “Thanksgiving” and “Prayer”

- “We always thank God...” - “Eucharisteo” – Lit: “good gracing” – Built upon “Charis – grace” this means an active remembrance of grace received with the expectation of grace to come...
 - The “Eucharist” – Remember: Past ... Expect: Future
 - Included with all Paul’s admonitions to Pray... – All of our prayers should draw upon the “grace” God has given in His provision and the application of that “grace” to the need...
 - We also actively engage in times of “Thanksgiving” as we celebrate the “grace” God has given in providing Salvation through Jesus Christ...
- “When we pray for you...” – “Proseuche” – To speak face to face
 - Open conversation with another... -Nothing hidden or exaggerated – no hindrance in speaking honestly
 - May indicate simple Communion... “I’m just here to talk”
 - OR it may be a Request for Knowledge, Wisdom, or Help...
 - This also is the most general word for “prayer” and so it may include ANY or ALL the forms of Prayer

FAITH: LOVE: AND HOPE...

This “Triad” is found in numerous places, combinations, and applications in Paul’s Letters...

This combination is used by Paul in a most revealing way in one of his most “Pastoral” Letters

- 1 THESS 1:2-3 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Faith that “Produces” “Ergon” - Faith is meant to DO something... To “Work” –
 - Paul knew that the “faith” they had in the Lord Jesus Christ was actively producing in the Church and the City...
 - Faith is not meant to be a “possession” but a means to accomplish “good works”
- Love that “Labors” – “Kopon” – intense work, toil, “sweat” – Love is NOT always easy...
 - the Resistance we face, the Passivity that we encounter, and the Opposition that is directed at us MUST be responded to with “Love”
 - Love IS a choice... and always the best one
- Hope that “Endures” – “Hupomone” – to remain under the weight – to abide under pressure
 - The “Work” we are doing, and the “Love” we are expressing are re-enforced by the “Hope” we have
 - Hope looks forward EVEN as it “abides under the weight” – The Endurance of Hope is NOT just “putting-up with the problem” – it is a view to “overcoming victoriously”