

0190 047 The Pleasure Of Prayer Comes From Reaching A Certain Stage Of Spiritual Growth.

08/01/97 Phi 1:4; 1Jo 5:14-15; Heb 4:14-16; Rom 8:26-27

Summary

The discussion centers on Philippians 1:3-5, emphasizing Paul's gratitude for the Philippian church's support and his consistent prayer for them. McLaughlin highlights the importance of gratitude in prayer, noting that mature believers should thank God for people in their lives. The conversation also explores the principles of effective prayer: confession of sin, thanksgiving, intercession, and petition. Effective prayer is linked to spiritual maturity, where prayers are answered because they align with God's will. McLaughlin stresses that prayer is not for personal gain but to express dependence on God and to intercede for others.

- **Philippians 1:3 and Paul's Gratitude** [0:03](#)
 - McLaughlin begins with a moment of silent prayer, emphasizing the importance of fellowship with God through His Word.
 - The group prays for accuracy in understanding the Word of God, specifically Philippians 1:3, which speaks of Paul's gratitude for the Philippian church.
 - McLaughlin notes that the Philippian church was the only one to financially support Paul during his teachings in Corinth, Thessalonica, and Rome.
 - Paul's gratitude is expressed in prayer, thanking God for the people in his life, which McLaughlin has incorporated into his own prayer life.
- **The Pleasure of Prayer** [3:33](#)
 - McLaughlin introduces the topic of prayer, noting that it is often not a pleasure but hard work requiring concentration.
 - Prayer becomes more difficult when it involves giving thanks for people and entering into intercession and petition.
 - The pleasure of prayer comes from reaching a certain stage of spiritual growth, as seen in Philippians 1:4-5.
 - Paul's consistent prayer for the Philippians is highlighted, emphasizing the joy and inner happiness he experienced in his prayers.
- **The Structure of Effective Prayer** [7:58](#)
 - McLaughlin outlines four principles for an effective prayer life: confession of sin, thanksgiving, intercession, and petition.
 - Confession of sin is necessary to ensure fellowship with the Holy Spirit and to have prayers heard.
 - Thanksgiving should reflect on all things, both good and challenging, as a form of worship and gratitude.
 - Intercession involves praying for others, while petition is for one's own needs, with the latter coming last in the prayer agenda.
- **The Role of Spiritual Maturity in Prayer** [12:39](#)

- McLaughlin explains that true enjoyment of prayer comes with spiritual maturity, as seen in Paul's consistent prayer for the Philippians.
- The correct translation of Philippians 1:4 is discussed, emphasizing the iterative present tense and the joy in prayer.
- The joy in prayer is linked to God's happiness, which is a result of spiritual maturity and understanding God's will.
- Effective prayer is dependent on spiritual growth, and confidence in prayer comes from knowing God's will and living in His pre-designed plan.
- **The Power of Intercessory Prayer [39:25](#)**
 - McLaughlin discusses the importance of intercessory prayer, which involves praying for others, even those one does not like.
 - True intercessory prayer is motivated by personal love and a desire for others to know and understand God's will.
 - The power of intercessory prayer is seen in its ability to bring about spiritual growth and transformation in others.
 - McLaughlin emphasizes the need for impersonal love in prayer, which means praying for enemies and those who have wronged us.
- **The Role of Doctrine in Effective Prayer [49:50](#)**
 - McLaughlin highlights the importance of doctrine in effective prayer, as it helps believers understand and comply with God's will.
 - Effective prayer is linked to spiritual maturity, which allows believers to ask for things according to God's will.
 - The promise of effective prayer is found in John 15:7, which states that if believers abide in Christ and His doctrines, their prayers will be answered.
 - The role of doctrine in prayer is to guide believers in making requests that are pleasing to God and in line with His plan.
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit in Prayer [54:47](#)**
 - McLaughlin explains that the Holy Spirit helps believers in their weaknesses, interceding for them with groanings too deep for words.
 - The Holy Spirit's intercession ensures that prayers are made according to God's will, even when believers do not know how to pray as they should.
 - The role of the Holy Spirit in prayer is to guide and support believers, ensuring that their prayers are effective and in line with God's plan.
 - The comfort of knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes for believers is emphasized, providing assurance that their prayers are heard and answered.
- **The Importance of Spiritual Maturity in Prayer Effectiveness [1:00:59](#)**
 - McLaughlin discusses the relationship between spiritual maturity and the effectiveness of prayer, noting that spiritual growth increases the power of prayer.
 - Effective prayer is linked to spiritual self-esteem, independence, and maturity, as believers grow in their understanding of God's will.
 - The importance of praying for others, even those who are difficult to love, is emphasized as a sign of spiritual maturity.
 - The role of prayer in expressing helplessness, humility, and dependence on God is highlighted, as believers recognize their need for His grace and mercy.
- **The Role of Prayer in Overcoming Suffering [1:01:14](#)**

- McLaughlin discusses the role of prayer in overcoming suffering, noting that believers who are spiritually mature can pray with joy and confidence.
- The example of Paul, who prayed for the Philippians while in prison, is used to illustrate the joy and inner happiness that comes from prayer.
- The importance of persevering in prayer and maintaining a positive attitude, even in the face of suffering, is emphasized.
- The role of prayer in expressing gratitude and thanksgiving for God's blessings, even in difficult circumstances, is highlighted.
- **The Role of Prayer in Expressing God's Will [1:01:28](#)**
 - McLaughlin explains that prayer is a way for believers to express God's will in their lives, as they align their requests with His plan.
 - The importance of praying for the spiritual growth and well-being of others is emphasized, as believers seek to honor God in their prayers.
 - The role of prayer in revealing the believer's relationship with God and their spiritual growth is highlighted.
 - The importance of praying for the needs of others, even when it is difficult, is emphasized as a sign of spiritual maturity and love.