

Great Prayers of the Bible: Paul Selected Scripture

We are commanded to pray for the sick (James 5:13-18). Many of Jesus' miracles were healing the sick. We all know from personal experience how important good health is to our lives. Therefore, it makes sense that a lot of our prayers are for healing. Paul himself did healing miracles (Acts 14:8-10; 28:7-10), and I'm confident he prayed in private for healing. But when he wrote his prayers in letters to churches, he prayed for more important things. Why? God doesn't answer every prayer for the sick with healing. He doesn't answer every prayer with yes. How does one react to that? People who know God, are close to Him, have strong faith and are mature usually respond in a much better way, than someone who is immature, weak in faith and whose relationship with God isn't good. So, closeness to God, knowledge of God, faith in God are important things to pray for! Also, how does one have a relationship with God? By hearing and believing the gospel. So, we should pray a lot for people to be saved.

Paul Prayed for the Gospel to be Proclaimed

Paul asked people to pray for him to persevere through trials so the gospel would be proclaimed (2 Thess 3:1,2; Col 4:3,4; Rom 15:30,31). He also asked for prayers for boldness so that He could proclaim the gospel. Paul's single focus on the gospel shows how much his salvation meant and how determined he was others experienced it too. *What's the focus of your life?*

Paul Thanked God for the Christians in His Life

Paul had many partners in his ministry, and he often thanked them for their support in his prayers (Rom 1:8; 1 Cor 1:4; Philemon 4-6; 1 Thess 1:2; 2 Thess 1:3; Col 1:3; Phil 1:3; Eph 1:15). When Paul thanked God for them, he also often commended them for their faith (1 Thess 2:2,3; 2 Tim 1:3). He also prayed that he would get to see them (Rom 1:10; 1 Thess 3:10). *Do you thank God for the people in your life? Do the people in your life know how thankful you are for them?*

Paul Prayed for Spiritual Growth

These are some of things Paul prayed for the Christians in his churches. Do nothing wrong (2 Cor 13:7), Be fully mature (2 Cor 13:9), A full understanding of every good thing in Christ (Philemon 6), Christ would be glorified in them (2 Thess 1:12), live worthy of the Lord (1 Thess 1:5, Col 1:10), strength of God (Col 1:11; Eph 3:16), knowledge of God (Col 1:9; Eph 1:17), discernment (Phil 1:9; Eph 1:17), love would abound in them (Phil 1:9), and they would know the love of God (Eph 3:18).