

September 26, 2022  
PrayerCast

As you enter this time of reflection and prayer, slow down your thoughts and truly work to stop the world around you. The word teaches us to *“take all thoughts into captivity.”* So, take those racing thoughts and set them aside. Lay them down. You will be able to pick up your thoughts again soon. But in this time, in these moments of right NOW, belong only to Your Father. Turn your mind toward Him, encounter Your God and center yourself in His peace.

In services, Brian has been challenging us to BLESS 217. BLESS is an acronym, that gives us simple ways to bless those around us, in our community. They stand for

- Begin with prayer. Pray for the people in your life and the places that you’re in.
- Listen. Listen to and discover the needs of others and the places where God is at work.
- Eat. Share meals and spend time with people in my life.
- Serve. Respond to the needs of others and help them in practical and impactful ways.
- Story. Share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in my life with others.

This next six weeks, we are focusing on Beginning with prayer. So in our next few prayercasts, we’re going to focus on praying for those who we want to bless and share Christ with.

Brian challenged us to choose one person in our lives who we want to see come to know Jesus. Then, to dedicate these next six weeks to praying for that person. Like a lot of great things, it’s not complicated. It’s simple. But it is very powerful.

In my small group this week we were discussing areas of spiritual growth. We rated ourselves in the following areas: how we are growing in our relationship with God through time spent with him, our service, our giving, our worship and our sharing of our faith. A few of the group marked that they needed to grow in this area of sharing their faith, and we began to discuss this challenge Brian has put before us to begin praying daily for someone we want to share our faith with.

With that in mind, I was drawn to this scripture in Ephesians that I used last week as a prayer. The heading was “Cooperating with the Power of God” for these verses. It struck me that in sharing my faith more than other area of my life, I feel it is all Him, and none of me. I ask Him for the opportunity, the impulse, the words—just EVERYTHING as I seek to share Christ with those around me. There is no part of it that is me. ALL of it is Him.

As we read this let the words wash over you. Listen for a word or phrase that jumps out at you. Hold onto it.

Ephesians 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family<sup>[a]</sup> in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and

high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Take a moment to let God speak to you about the word or phrase that struck you.  
PAUSE.

Paul prays for the spiritual growth of the Ephesians all the ways that He wants to see them grow. Consider the person that you are praying for these six weeks. Pray for them as I read each of the following movements:

God we ask you to strengthen them in Your Spirit; PAUSE

God we ask that you may dwell in their hearts through faith; PAUSE

God we ask that they would be rooted and established in Your love; PAUSE

God we ask that they would grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, PAUSE

God we ask that they would know this love that surpasses knowledge PAUSE

We ask that they may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God PAUSE.

Lord Jesus, in this time and space, speak to my heart your wisdom for this person that I care for, who I want to see come to know you. PAUSE.

Lord Jesus, fill my heart to overflowing that I might feel the same drive for their salvation that You do. PAUSE.

Give me the opportunity, and the words, Lord Jesus. PAUSE.

Put a deep hunger for Yourself in the heart of my friend. PAUSE.

I pray that You would be honored, and Your kingdom would grow through me. I ask this in Jesus mighty name. amen.

