

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

Paul's Prayer to Encourage the Saints

1. The Christian life can be discouraging at times. There is the external struggle against evil and there is the internal struggle against sin. On the other hand, we learned from verses 3–14 that God is the One who is at work saving sinners, and that same God is the One who is actively at work in a believer's life to produce spiritual fruit. Considering these two seemingly opposing forces, do you see the normative work of producing spiritual fruit/growth in your life?
2. Paul, among others, is a tremendous example of prayer in the New Testament. What examples in the New Testament can you think of which model a) what to pray for and b) how to pray?
3. Paul begins his prayer in vv. 15–16 by thanking God for the fruit in the Ephesians lives. Fruit which is made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. However, in less than thirty years the Apostle John is writing that the Ephesian church had lost their first love. What are the categories, if you neglect them in your life, would lead you to the same place the Ephesian church was described at in Revelation 2:1–7?



