

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Growth

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
September 11, 2022



- **God's ultimate purpose is for you to become like Jesus Christ.**

Romans 8:29 (NLT) "For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him [Jesus] as we are changed into his glorious image."

1 John 3:2 (NLT) "Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is."

"Christlikeness is the will of God for the people of God." John Stott

How do we grow in Christlikeness?

- **Find wisdom in a relationship with Jesus.**

Ephesians 1:15-17 (NLT) "Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, ¹⁶ I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly,¹⁷ asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God."

John 17:3 (NLT) "And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth."

- **Flood your heart with hope.**

Ephesians 1:18 (NLT) "I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance."

- **Fuel with resurrection power.**

Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT) "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."

- **Focus on Christ as you live as the Church.**

Ephesians 1:21-23 (NLT) "Now he [Jesus] is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself."

Big Idea: Grow in Christlikeness by being united with Christ.

How do you apply this?

- **Prioritize your relationship with Jesus.**
- **Partner with Jesus through the Church.**
- **Pray for wisdom, hope, and power, for yourself and for others.**

Acts 4:13 (NLT) "They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus."



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Growth
#10 of 10 - September 11, 2022**

- 1) Last week we looked at the story of Jonah and our need for repentance. How has the Lord been speaking to you through this message? What have you been applying from this message?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read Ephesians 1:1-23. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about this passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does this reveal about growing in Christlikeness?
- 6) Read Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, and 1 John 3:2. What do these passages reveal about God's ultimate purpose for our lives?
- 7) How does Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-19 line up with God's purpose for our lives?
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? In what way is God asking you to prioritize spiritual growth? Reflect on the 3 action steps and commit to a specific step for each one.
 - Prioritize your relationship with Jesus.
 - Partner with Jesus through the Church.
 - Pray for wisdom, hope, and power, for yourself and for others.
- 9) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



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