

Paul's Prayers – To The Ephesians pt. 2

Prayer - is direct, personal communication and fellowship between a you and God

Many use the acronym **A-C-T-S** to guide their prayers

A – Adoration: praising God for who he is

C – Confession: Admitting wrongs and asking for forgiveness

T – Thanksgiving: Expressing gratitude for blessings

S – Supplication: Asking for help, guidance, or provision

(Ephesians 1:15-23 nlt)

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, 16I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17asking 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. 18I 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.

19I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21Now he 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. 22God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

- Paul prays for the Ephesians, asking God to give them spiritual wisdom and insight so that they can grow in the knowledge of God

- Remember the church in Ephesus is made up of a bunch of ex-idol worshippers and those who use to practices the occult
- Praying for them to grow in the knowledge of God, is so that they can know the truth and not be destroyed

(Hosea 4:1-7 nlt)

1Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel! The Lord has brought charges against you, saying: “There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. 2You make vows and break them. you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere—one murder after another. 3That is why your land is in mourning, and everyone is wasting away. Even the wild animals, the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea are disappearing. 4“Don’t point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame! My complaint, you priests, is with you. 5So you will stumble in broad daylight, and your false prophets will fall with you in the night. And I will destroy Israel, your mother. 6My people are being destroyed because they don’t know me. Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children. 7The more priests there are, the more they sin against me. They have exchanged the glory of God for the shame of idols.

- We are destroyed for the lack of knowledge.
- If Paul is praying for them to get spiritual wisdom, he is praying for them to have the fear of the Lord
- Having The fear of the Lord is Spiritual wisdom

(Proverbs 9:10 esv)

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

- In context in Hosea, God brought a case against the priest because it was their job to make God know to the people. The people were destroyed because of the lack of knowledge

- So Another way to grow in the knowledge of God is to have a shepherd after Gods heart, that will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

(Jeremiah 3:11-15 nkjv)

11Then the Lord said to me, “Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. 12Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: ‘Return, backsliding Israel,’ says the Lord; ‘I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful,’ says the Lord; ‘I will not remain angry forever. 13Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against the Lord your God, and have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, and you have not obeyed My voice,’ says the Lord. 14“Return, O backsliding children,” says the Lord; “for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. 15And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

- The first thing God does when Israel repents from backsliding, is give them shepherds to feed them with knowledge and understanding
- You need a pastor to help disciple you, so that you can grow and mature in Christ
- There is wisdom in having a pastor, because the 5 fold ministry is there to equipped you for the work of ministry

(Ephesians 4:11-16 nlt)

11Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **12**Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. **13**This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

14Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. **15**Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. **16**He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

- Paul also prays for the Ephesians to have their hearts filled with light so that they can understand the confident hope God has given to those he called
- **Hope** - to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence, an expectation
- If God fills our hearts with light, it's so that we may see the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus

(2 Corinthians 4:6 nkjv)

6For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- Our confident hope is knowing that Christ lives in us, the hope of Glory

(Colossians 1:25-27 nlt) 27 nkjv)

God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. 26This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. 27For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

(v27. nkjv)

7To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- Every believer is called, and if your called, then there is a hope that is waiting for you
- God thoughts for you, are thoughts of peace and of evil. To give you a future and of a hope

(Jeremiah 29:11 nkjv)

11For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- Our confident hope to those who are called is knowing that we have salvation

(1 Thessalonians 5:5-10 nkjv)

5You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

- Those who are called, are called to conform into the image of his son.
- Because the light shines in our hearts we know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus
- Those who are called, are called to conform into the image of his son.
So we confidently looking forward to share Gods glory in the hope of Salvation

(Romans 5:1-7 nlt)

1Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. **2**Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

3We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. **4**And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. **5**And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

- God promise this hope of eternal life before the world began

(Titus 1:1-3 nkjv)

1Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, **2**in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, **3**but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

- Our confident hope is knowing we will inherit eternal life

(Titus 3:6-7 nlt) 7 nkjv)

6He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

(v7 nkjv)

that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.