

Paul's Prayers – To The Ephesians pt. 1

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

Who were the Ephesians?

- The Ephesians were people who live in the city of Ephesus which was known for their idol worship and pagan practices
- They welcomed sorcerers and magicians. And they believed they draw power from the worship of artemis and other occult practices
- Ephesus was a hub of spiritual darkness and demonic oppression
- Before paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians. He lived there for about three years on a missions trip.
- He started the church of Ephesus which was a mixture of jews and gentiles

- The church began to grow and a silversmith name demetruis started a riot because he felt threaten that he would be out of business because paul was converting a lot of people in ephesus that they began to stop worshipping their god artimis

(Acts 19:1-7 nlt)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers.^[a] ² “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them.

“No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

³ “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked.

And they replied, “The baptism of John.”

⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.”

⁵ As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues^[b] and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

- The first thing Paul did when he got into Ephesus, was baptize believers and filled them up with the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus
- Paul would preach boldly in the synagogue but the jews would reject him so he began to preach in the lecture hall Tyrannus so that the word of the Lord could be heard in that providence

(Acts 19:8-10 nlt)

⁸Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God. ⁹But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.

- God was use Paul in Ephesus in a powerful way that he would perform miracles in a unusual way
- Ephesus was full of idol worship and occult practices that the power of God needed to be demonstrated

(Acts 19:11-22 nlt)

11 God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. **12** When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.

13 A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!” **14** Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. **15** But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?” **16** Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

17 The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. **18** Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. **19** A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars.^[c] **20** So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

21 Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit^[d] to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. “And after that,” he said, “I must go on to Rome!” **22** He sent his two assistants, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia.

- The church in Ephesus began to grow that the idol worshippers and those who made the idol felt threatened that they started a riot against Paul

(Acts 19:23-34 nlt)

²³ About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way. ²⁴ It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. ^[e] He kept many craftsmen busy. ²⁵ He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows:

“Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. ²⁶ But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren’t really gods at all. And he’s done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! ²⁷ Of course, I’m not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I’m also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!”

²⁸ At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” ²⁹ Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia. ³⁰ Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn’t let him. ³¹ Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater.

³² Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn’t even know why they were there. ³³ The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. ³⁴ But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

- The mayor of Ephesus had to calm things down because of the riot but one thing he said really stood out to me
- He pointed to the fact that Paul never spoken against their goddess artmeis or have stolen anything from the temple

(Act 19:35-41 nlt)

³⁵ At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. “Citizens of Ephesus,” he said. “Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven. ³⁶ Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. ³⁷ You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess.

³⁸ “If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once. Let them make formal charges. ³⁹ And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly. ⁴⁰ I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won’t know what to say.” ⁴¹ [f] Then he dismissed them, and they dispersed.

- Now that we have a better understanding of the Ephesians and the history that happen in Ephesus

- When you read the letter to the Ephesians that Paul wrote while in prison, it would make a lot more sense why he prayed for them the way he did

(Ephesians 1:15-23 nkjv)

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your ^[f] understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all principality^[g] and ^[h] power and ^[i] might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.