

Paul's Prayers – The Apostle Paul

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 was Paul?

- Paul who was born as Saul of tarsus, was from the Benjamite lineage and a pharisee so zealous that he persecuted the church and obeyed the law without fault

(Philippians 3:5-6 nlt)

⁵I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

- Saul was present when Stephen got stoned to death. he over saw the stoning

(Acts 7:58 nlt)

and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.

- Saul became determined to eradicate Christians, ruthless in his pursuit as he believed he was acting in the name of God.
- There is no one more frightening or more vicious than a religious terrorist, especially when he believes he is doing the will of the Lord by killing innocent people. This is exactly what Saul of Tarsus was: a religious terrorist.

(Acts 8:1-3 nlt)

Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. ²(Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) ³But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

- Saul hated Christians so much, that he wanted to persecute them, kill them or throw them in prison in the name of God
- That he went to the high priest to get permission to ask the Damascus synagogues to cooperate with him on his mission

- But on the journey to Damascus God intervene

(Acts 9:1-19 nlt)

Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers.^[a] So he went to the high priest.² He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

³ As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

⁵ "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!"⁶ Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one!⁸ Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus.⁹ He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

¹⁰ Now there was a believer^[b] in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!"

“Yes, Lord!” he replied. ¹¹ The Lord said, “Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. ¹² I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again.”

¹³ “But Lord,” exclaimed Ananias, “I’ve heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers^[c] in Jerusalem! ¹⁴ And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said, “Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

¹⁷ So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Instantly something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

- Saul was chosen by God to minister mainly to the gentiles, non-jews and his ministry was going to be a ministry of suffering
- Saul spent approximately three years being disciplined and prepared in Arabia and Damascus before his first official visit to the apostles in Jerusalem

(Galatians 1:11-24 nlt)

¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. ¹² I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.^[d]

¹³ You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

¹⁵ But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me^[e] so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.

When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being.^[f] ¹⁷ Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.

¹⁸ Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter,^[g] and I stayed with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹ The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord’s brother. ²⁰ I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.

²¹ After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And still the churches in Christ that are in Judea didn’t know me personally. ²³ All they knew was that people were saying, “The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!” ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.

- Saul did not actually change his name or receive a new name from God
- He possessed both names from birth

- **Saul** - served as his Hebrew name from his Jewish heritage in the tribe of Benjamin
- **Paul** - served as his Latin/Greek Roman name given because his family held roman citizenship
- Saul begins to use his roman name **Paul** when he begins his ministry to the gentiles. His roman name Paul fit better with the gentile. the non-Jewish

(Acts 13:1-14 nlt)

13 Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”^[a]), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas^[b]), and Saul. ²One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” ³So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

Paul’s First Missionary Journey

⁴So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus. ⁵There, in the town of Salamis, they went to the Jewish synagogues and preached the word of God. John Mark went with them as their assistant.

⁶Afterward they traveled from town to town across the entire island until finally they reached Paphos, where they met a Jewish sorcerer, a false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷He had attached himself to the governor, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. The governor invited Barnabas and Saul to visit him, for he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas, the sorcerer (as his name means in Greek), interfered and urged the governor to pay no attention to what Barnabas and Saul said. He was trying to keep the governor from believing.

⁹ Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye.¹⁰ Then he said, “You son of the devil, full of every sort of deceit and fraud, and enemy of all that is good! Will you never stop perverting the true ways of the Lord? ¹¹ Watch now, for the Lord has laid his hand of punishment upon you, and you will be struck blind. You will not see the sunlight for some time.” Instantly mist and darkness came over the man’s eyes, and he began groping around begging for someone to take his hand and lead him.

¹² When the governor saw what had happened, he became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

Paul Preaches in Antioch of Pisidia

¹³ Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ But Paul and Barnabas traveled inland to Antioch of Pisidia.^[c]

Saul means – asked for, requested or prayed for

Paul means – Small, humble or least

- Paul was committed to God. He was all in, completely surrendered
- Even in prison he wrote that everything he’s been through served for the advancement of the gospel

(Philippians 1:12-14 nlt)

¹² And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters,^[c] that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. ¹³ For everyone here, including the whole palace guard,^[d] knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers^[e] here have gained confidence and boldly speak God’s message^[f] without fear.

- Paul knew what God did for him and how he changed his life that he didn't take God's grace in vain. Instead, he labored more abundantly than everyone else

(1 Corinthians 15:9-11 nkjv)

⁹For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which* was with me. ¹¹Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

- Whether he lived or died, he trusted his life will bring honor to Christ

(Philippians 1:20-26 nlt)

²⁰For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. ²¹For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. ²²But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. ²³I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

²⁵Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. ²⁶And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

The Apostle Paul is credited to writing 13 letters in the New Testament

- **Romans**: A deep explanation of the Christian gospel and salvation.
- **1 & 2 Corinthians**: Letters addressing church problems, morality, and division in Corinth.
- **Galatians**: A defense of salvation by faith rather than Jewish law.
- **Ephesians**: A letter on the unity of believers and the church as the body of Christ.
- **Philippians**: A joyful message of encouragement and life in Christ.
- **Colossians**
: A letter focusing on the supreme authority of Jesus.
- **1 & 2 Thessalonians**: Letters offering comfort, instruction, and clarity on the return of Christ.
- **1 & 2 Timothy & Titus**: Known as the "Pastoral Epistles," offering guidance to church leaders.
- **Philemon**: A short, personal appeal for a runaway slave named Onesimus.