



## Paul's Prayer

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by Kelsey Smith

### Paul's Role in Different Churches:

- Often dealt with problems in churches (e.g., Corinth, Philippi).
- Spent a significant time in Ephesus, deeply loved this church.

### Love for Jesus and Each Other:

- Ephesians known for their faith and love.
- Reflect: Do we see this in our church?
- Revelation 2:4: Jesus rebukes Ephesians for leaving their first love.
  - Note: "Left" their first love, not "lost."
  - Without love for Jesus, can't sustain love for others.

### Prayer Life:

- Not all prayers need to be lengthy.
- Paul's prayer for spiritual wisdom:
  - Ephesians 1:15-17: Pray to know God more deeply (gnosco - knowledge by experience).

### Knowing God:

- A.W. Tozer: Our view of God is crucial.
- Deep relationship with God is vital.
- Example: Knowing details about a loved one vs. truly knowing them.
- How to know God:
  - Scripture: Alive and interactive (Psalm 119:25-32, Psalm 119:15).

### Hope and Calling:

- Ephesians 1:18: Pray for confident hope in our calling.
- Loss of hope is often linked to loss of calling.
- Paul's suffering (Acts 20:23, Acts 21:27-Acts 28:3):
  - Kidnapped, beaten, threatened, arrested, shipwrecked, etc.
  - Suffering brings a deeper understanding of God's love and grace.
  - Romans 5:3-4: Suffering develops endurance and hope.



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### Our Identity in God:

- Ephesians 1:19-23: Pray to see ourselves as God's inheritance.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21: We are new in Christ, His ambassadors.

### Experiencing God's Power:

- Same power that raised Christ is available to us.
- Spurgeon: This power transforms lives (e.g., from drunkenness, dishonesty).
- Ephesians 1:19-20: Incredible greatness of God's power for believers.

### Scripture References:

1. Revelation 2:4
2. Psalm 119:25-32
3. Psalm 119:15
4. Acts 20:23
5. Acts 21:27, 30-31
6. Acts 21:30-31
7. Acts 23:3

8. Acts 22:22
9. Acts 27:42
10. Acts 21:33
11. Acts 22:24
12. Acts 22:31
13. Acts 23:35
14. Acts 28:16
15. Acts 21:34
16. Acts 22:30
17. Acts 24:1-2
18. Acts 25:2
19. Acts 25:7
20. Acts 28:4
21. Acts 25:24-27
22. Acts 26:24
23. Acts 27:11
24. Acts 27:41
25. Acts 28:3
26. Romans 5:3-4
27. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
28. Romans 5:8