

Prayer That Makes A Difference

We are in Day 11 of our 21 Days of Fasting & Prayer. It's important to understand why we pray & what prayer accomplishes.

In **Philippians 1:4-5 TPT**, the Apostle Paul prays for this body of people who have been supporting him in a number of ways.

*“Always in every **prayer** (Gk. “**deisis**”) of mine for you all making **request** (“**deisis**”) with joy, 5. for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.”*

There are at least two particular Gk. words for prayer in the NT. The first is “*deisis*” found here in v. 4. **This word describes a deep inner desire from the heart for God to answer a specific, concrete need.** It is usually something physical or material. The Church at Philippi was a sacrificially giving church. Though struggling financially themselves, they gave sacrificially to the Apostle Paul’s ministry (see **Phil. 4:10-20**). In his classic daily devotional **Sparkling Gems From the Greek**, **Rick Renner** says, “When Paul says he is “*making request*,” the Greek tense carries the idea of Paul continuously making requests for the Philippian believers. This is definitely not a one-shot, occasional prayer; rather, Paul makes it very clear that praying for these believers is a part of his daily pattern. The word “*request*” is again the word *deisis*, now used twice in this verse, which categorically substantiates that Paul was asking God to answer and provide for the physical, tangible needs of this church. And notice that Paul said he made these requests “*with joy*.” It was no burden for him to pray for his partners; he did it with pleasure and joy.

In Philippians 1:5 Paul explains the reason he feels so passionate about these believers who had so faithfully supported his ministry. He says (NKJV) “*For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.*” The word “*fellowship*” is the Greek

word *koinonia* a word that depicted *partnership* or *a mutual participation in some project or event* and often referred to a partner, a sharer, or a companion.” When you pray and give faithfully of your time, talent and treasures to the ministry of King’sGate, you are working side-by-side with the purpose and aim of this ministry. As Paul said in **1 Cor. 3:8 NKJV** “Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward for his labor.” Prayer and financial support are the watering that helps make the work of others grow who have tilled the soil and planted the seed. This shows the partnership needed to see God’s kingdom advance in the earth!

Another Gk. word for prayer Paul uses is *proseuche*. This can be found in **Eph. 6:18 TPT**, “*Praying always with all prayer (“proseuche”) and supplication (“deisis”) in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication (“deisis”) for all the saints.*” *Proseuche* is the most common Gk. word for *prayer* in the N.T. It appears about 127 times there. It is a compound word made from 2 Gk. words *pros* and *euche*. *Pros* indicates “a sense of closeness” since it is a preposition that means “toward”. For instance, in John 1:1, *pros* is used to describe the relationship of the Godhead with one another. “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” “**With**” comes from the word “*pros*”. Thus the Holy Spirit used this word “*with*” to describe the relationship between the Father & the Son as intimate. It could be said that “*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was face-to-face with God...*”. Sparkling Gems From the Greek says, “The word is used in **Eph. 6:12** to picture our *close contact* with unseen, demonic spirits that have been marshaled against us.” Nearly everywhere it is used in the NT, the word *pros* carries the meaning of *close, up-front, intimate contact with someone else*. *Proseuche*’s second part is the Gk. word *euche*, which is an old Greek word meaning a *wish, desire*,

prayer, or **vow**. It gives us the idea of a person making a vow to God promising Him something of great value in exchange for a prayer need or desire in his or her life being answered. Hannah in the OT Book of First Samuel 1:11, says, “And she vowed a vow, and said, “*O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maid-servant and remember me, and not forget Your maid-servant, but will give Your maid-servant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.*” **SFLB** says, “*No razor shall come upon his head* is part of the Nazirite vow described in **Num. 6:1-8**. It was normally a vow to separate someone to God for a specified period of time during which the hair would remain uncut.” Hannah gave her most valued possession in exchange for answered prayer.

In the NT, this most common word for prayer, *proseuche*, indicates that prayer should bring us *face-to-face* with God in close contact. Prayer is neither a mechanical act or a formula that we follow to get what we want. It is a means by which we are brought to a place where we may enjoy *a close, intimate relationship with God*.

Rick Renner describes the purpose of prayer this way, “The idea of *sacrifice* is also associate with this word for “*prayer*.” It portrayed an individual who desires to see his prayer answered so desperately that he was willing to surrender everything he owned in exchange for answered prayer. Clearly, this describes an altar of sacrifice and consecration in prayer whereby a believer’s life is yielded entirely to God.”

Brother Renner: “Although the Holy Spirit may convict our hearts of areas that need to be surrendered to his sanctifying power, He will never forcibly take anything from us. Thus, this particularly word for prayer tells of a place of decision, a place of

consecration, an altar where we freely vow to give our lives to God in exchange for His life. Because the word *proseuche* carries this meaning of surrender and sacrifice, we can know that God obviously desires to do more than merely bless us – He wants to change us! He wants us to come to a place of consecration where we meet with Him face to face and surrender every area of our lives to Him, and in exchange, we are touched and changed by His power and Presence.

“I think you can see that the word for “prayer” used most often in the N.T. is more than simply a prayer request. This word demands *surrender*, *consecration*, and *thanksgiving* from us. The idea of the word *proseuche* is this: *“Come face to face with God and surrender your life in exchange for His. Maintain an attitude of consecration as an ongoing part of your life, and be sure to give Him thanks in advance for moving on your behalf.”*

Before running to the Lord with our prayer list and rush out, let’s examine our hearts first, and surrender to His will for our lives. That consecration will allow us closer intimacy with the Lord and the profound joy that comes with it.