

ROOT LEVEL PRAYER

Week 3:

Ephesians 1:15-23

ROOT LEVEL PRAYER

- What do you most often pray for?
- The Enemy goes after the roots in our lives, yet we often pray only on the surface of things
- Are you an outcome based pray-er? Or do you take time to pray down to the roots?

STANDING STRONG IN PRAYER IS NOT SIMPLY PRAYING FOR OUTCOMES, BUT PRAYING SPECIFICALLY AND STRATEGICALLY INTO THE ROOT ISSUES OF OUR HEARTS AND LIVES.

EPHESIANS 1:15-17

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

- Is prayer intentional for you? Is it serious, specific, and strategic?
- It's not the love we claim to have for God, but our love for His people that demonstrates our faith
- "Knowledge of God" = epi (full) gnosis (knowledge) or "full knowledge"

EPHESIANS 1:18-20

18 I 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. 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

EPHESIANS 1:21-23

21 Now 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. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.”

GUIDING THOUGHT

STANDING STRONG IN PRAYER IS NOT SIMPLY PRAYING FOR OUTCOMES, BUT PRAYING SPECIFICALLY AND STRATEGICALLY INTO THE ROOT ISSUES OF OUR HEARTS AND LIVES.

ROOT LEVEL PRAYER

I. Understands Our Confident Hope (v.18)

“...so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called...”

- Biblical hope is not a “wishful desire” but a solid security.

“What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all—life healed and whole.” - 1 Peter 1:3-5 The Message

ROOT LEVEL PRAYER

2. Understands the Incredible Greatness of God's Power (v.19-20)

“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him.” v. 19

- Paul uses 4 different Greek words to describe this power: dunamis—“power” as in dynamo and dynamite; energeia—“working” as in energy; kratos—“mighty”; ischus—“power.”

POWER EXTREMES:

1. Forest Fire (uncontrolled, all-consuming)
2. Easy Bake Oven (small, insignificant)

PRAYING IN POWER

“(People) either overestimate Satan’s influence and power, living with an inflated, erroneous perspective of his abilities. Or they underestimate him. They don’t assign him any credit at all for the difficulties he’s stirring up beneath the surface of our lives... Satan is not God. And he is not God’s counterpart or peer... Satan is nothing but a copycat trying desperately to convince you he’s more powerful than he actually is... So even though he’s given temporary clearance to strategize and antagonize, we don’t need to pray from a position of fear or weakness against him... But we can’t expect to experience this power unless we’re serious about joining the battle in prayer.”

- FERVENT, PRISCILLA SHIRER

ROOT LEVEL PRAYER

3. Understands That All Authority is in Christ (v.21-23)

“God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ...” - Ephesians 1:22

- Paul says that Christ’s power is our power, and we stand strong by praying root-level prayers in the Spirit, with Jesus’ authority!
- “Can you imagine what would happen if we actually stepped into the spiritual authority we have as sons and daughters in the name of Jesus? What if we accessed the power of the Kingdom that’s available to us so that whenever we come across evil in the form of the demonic or injustice, or whenever we come across sickness and brokenness, things would actually change or shift because we are exercising the authority that is ours in Christ?”

- Mark Thrash, InSearchOfTheKingdom.Com, What About the Power, (part 2)

A CLOSING CHALLENGE

Choose one person who you will consistently carry out “root-level” prayer for this week. Don’t necessarily pray for life circumstances to change, but that through their circumstances they would come to a deeper knowledge of God

Pray that they would better understand...

1. Their Confident Hope
2. The Incredible Greatness of God’s Power
3. The Unmatched Authority of Christ