



### Faithful Prayers from Philemon Philemon 1:4-7

#### Pray with thanksgiving for another's positive traits.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,

#### Text Message:

- The book of Philemon is the only personal letter in the New Testament and is written to a slave owner named Philemon.
- This may've been a personal letter, but it was not a private letter, as it was addressed to Philemon, Apphia, Archippus **and** "to the church in your house" (Verses 1-2).
- In other words, it was a personal letter written to Philemon that would benefit his family and church!
- In this letter, we see some great ways to pray for one another.
- *Pray and ask the Holy Spirit who you can pray for this week! Imagine if we were all givers and recipients of these prayers!*
- What is important to see here is although Paul had some tough business to take care of (Philemon's response to his runaway slave, Onesimus), he first affirms Philemon with thanksgiving.

#### This week's Prayer Verse for another's positive traits:

I hear about your faith in our Lord Jesus and about your love for all God's people. Philemon 1:5, *Contemporary English Version*

#### Pray for another's next step(s) of growth in Christ.

<sup>6</sup>and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.

#### Text Message:

- Pay attention to the phrase "the sharing of your faith." This may be a little misleading, as we often use this phrase for personal witnessing, telling others about Jesus.
- The phrase is variously translated in English translations, but the primary definition of the word as "partnership" may fit best.
- Paul wants Philemon to know that they are in partnership with one another for the sake of the Gospel and prays that this would lead Philemon to put into practice what he knows and become even more effective in the faith.
- In other words, Paul is praying that the situation of this letter would result in the next steps of growth for the slave owner, Philemon, and that he would respond to his runaway slave accordingly.
- Like Philemon, the crises of life can lead us to greater growth in Christ, and we all need the prayers of others for this!

#### This week's Prayer Verse for another's next step(s):

I pray that your partnership in the faith might become effective by an understanding of all that is good among us in Christ.

Philemon 1:6, *Common English Bible*

#### Pray for another to be a blessing to the church.

<sup>7</sup>For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

#### Text Message:

- Paul begins and his introduction of his prayer in affirmation.
- Note here that not only was Philemon a blessing to Paul, but also to the church ("saints"), as a source of refreshing to them.
- *Doesn't this describe well what we all need from one another?*

#### This week's Prayer Verse for another to be a blessing:

My friend, your love has made me happy and has greatly encouraged me. It has also cheered the hearts of God's people. Philemon 1:7, *Contemporary English Version*



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