



- MTR = Often we grumble about 1 another, Paul in the NT if he has problem with another he goes 1-2-1, & prays for them

- (d) **Considers it an act of worship & service** to God to pray on their behalf
- Relative clause here which shows praying flows out of praise / A relative clause provides more information
  - “The relative clause is by no means a mere embellishment, but is of real significance in connexion with Paul’s oath; for it points to the fact that his praying for them is an integral part of his service of God”
  - MTR = For those of you who feel you don’t have energy of 20’s, activism of 30’s, can’t serve like 4-50’s [my daughter said to me – oh your so from the 1900’s ☺ ]- this is your act of service and worship
- (e) **Constantly remembers** them in his prayers – “how constantly I remember you in my prayers” (9b-10a)
- Gr. = ‘constantly, unceasingly’ continuously, at all times / consistently throughout my days
- (f) **Continuously throughout his days** - “at all times” (10b)
- At all times – constantly, consistently through my days / but other side in original at the times of my prayers I remember you
  - An ongoing conversation throughout the day, but at all the times he prays (Jews = 3 times a day)
  - The NIV “in my prayers” translates ἐπὶ τῶν προσευχῶν μου. The phrase means “at [the time of] my prayers” and suggests that in keeping with his Jewish upbringing Paul maintained specific times for prayer (Jewish custom called for three periods each day; cf. Dan 6:11; Acts 10:3; *Did* 8.2)
  - We need both, a consistent conversation of prayer through our days, but intentional specific times throughout our weeks
- (g) **Certainly in line with God’s will** – aligning his heart and prayers to the will of God
- “The will, or good pleasure, of God was the determining factor in all of Paul’s plans. As the servant of God, he worked within the framework of the divine will. All too often believers formulate their own plans and then attempt to co-opt God into them.”
- (h) **Core desire is that they may be strong** -
- To cause to be inwardly firm or committed, *confirm, establish, strengthen*
    - Luke 22:32 – same word used when Jesus says to Peter – “I’ve prayed for you, that you will not fail ... strengthen”
    - Acts 18:23 – Paul went through Galatia & Phrygia strengthening the disciples”
    - Rom 16:25 – Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to the gospel
  - MTR – Do you know how many believers need strength? In marriage, obedience, perseverance, standing strong?

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## II. **Paul Prayed & Pled with God in Prayer for the First / Early Church [THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD]**

2 Thess 1:11: “**We constantly pray for you**, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.

2 Tim 1:3: I thank God, whom I serve ... with a clear conscience, as **night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers**

**2 Cor 11:27-28:** I’ve often gone **without sleep**; <sup>28</sup> Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

You know when you do a study of Paul’s prayers:

Worship – he often breaks out into worship

Formation – the majority of his prayers for discipleship [Gary & Garrett]

Mission – he asks for & calls believers to stand on mission with him

E.g. Jesus told a Story of a Persistent Widow

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## III. **Don’t Play at Prayer, Plead in Prayer [HP]**

Flooding our Sunday Worship Services with Pleading Prayer:

E.g. Spurgeon’s Church – Pre-Service Prayer

Flooding our Working Weeks with Pleading Prayer:

E.g. Emmanuel – 24/7 prayer room – in foyer – every single hour covered

Flooding Specific Places in our Church & Community with Pleading Prayer:

E.g. Lorna, praying over seats – I know there is a wonderful prayer team who does that here on occasion

E.g. Pam – Walking the parking lot before our evangelistic event

**THE CHURCH THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**



### **3 REASONS WE NEED TO PLEAD IN PRAYER:**

**(I) WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE**

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**(III) GOD'S PEOPLE TRULY PLEAD IN PRAYER, GOD OFTEN MOVES IN POWER**

**8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. 9 God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. 11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong ...**

**ROMANS 1:8-11:**



**11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. 12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12**

**3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.**

**2 TIMOTHY 1:3**

**(1) PAUL PRAYED & PLED WITH GOD IN PRAYER FOR THE FIRST / EARLY CHURCH [IN ROME]**

**8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. 9 God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. 11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong ...**

**ROMANS 1:8-11**

**(2) PAUL PRAYED & PLED WITH GOD IN PRAYER FOR THE FIRST / EARLY CHURCH [THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD]**

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**2 THESSALONIANS 1:11**

**(2) PAUL PRAYED & PLED WITH GOD IN PRAYER FOR THE FIRST / EARLY CHURCH [THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD]**

**3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.**

**2 TIMOTHY 1:3**

**WHEN YOU DO A STUDY OF PAUL'S PRAYERS FOR THE FIRST / EARLY CHURCH:**

- (a) Worship - he often breaks out into worship**
- (b) Formation - the majority of his prayers are for discipleship**
- (c) - he asks for strength & calls believers to stand on mission with him**

### **(3) PLEAD WITH GOD IN PRAYER**