

## A Model Prayer for Spiritual Growth

### I. Announce:

- A. Welcome those online.
- B. Slide 1-6 explain briefly.
- C. Prayer: We thank You for the faith and love You have stirred in our hearts through Jesus. Tonight, we come humbly, asking as Paul did, that You would give us the *Spirit of wisdom and revelation* so that we might know You more deeply.

### II. Slide 7 Intro: A Model Prayer for Spiritual Growth

- A. Here we have a model prayer for spiritual growth.
- B. Theme: Praying for *deeper knowledge of Christ and His power at work in us*.
  - 1. You can pray this prayer for: **yourself**, for your spouse, your friends, your church, your church leaders.
- C. Last week Paul completed his *203 word sentence of blessing* (3-14). It included being: *chosen, adopted, graciously favored, redeemed, forgiven, His revealed will to us, made us an inheritance, sealed, and gave the HS as a deposit*.
  - 1. Now Paul's **thanksgiving** for God's plan of **salvation** in Christ (last section) overflows into **prayer** (15-23).
  - 2. Here we have one more long run on sentence (in the orig.).
- D. Each section: Quiet reflection and prayer through the passage. Or open time to pray aloud.

### III. Slide 8 (1) GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S WORK (15-16)

- A. 15 *For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,* 16 *I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,*
- B. (15,16) Intro: 2 things that matter most: **Faith** in Jesus and **Love** toward all believers.

C. **Knowing God** - 1st step to *Knowing God* is **saving faith**. 2nd step is *knowing Him better* which is meant here.

1. It involves more than knowing just **facts** about Him. **Facts are helpful ... but not enough.**

D. **The eyes of your understanding** (heart) **being enlightened** – Remember the song, *Open the eyes of my heart Lord.*

1. This is done by opening our **spiritual eyes**. Jn.9:39 *For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.* (obviously speaking spiritually)

2. Many Christians have learned a lot **about God**, **but what about experiencing Him?** [it's using our other eyes]

a) *Our spiritual eyes* absorb reality at the innermost level of our being.

b) *The eyes of our heart are like* an instrument that is used to perceive and understand **deep truth and deep reality.**

c) 1st **truth** comes to our **minds**, **but** for truth to truly take hold of us, it must penetrate all the way to the **heart**. **Only when this happens** can our **will** be properly energized and motivated. *It's Holy Heart-burn!*

(1) **Remember in Lk.24.** Jesus (post res) meets up w/2 disciples on the road to Emmaus. They didn't know it was Him. They converse. He stays w/them for the evening, has supper, took/blessed/broke bread, **then** vanished. They said, *Didn't our heart burn w/in us while He talked w/us on the road & while He opened the Scriptures to us.* Holy Heart-burn!

3. Jeremiah said, *let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me* (9:24).

a) The word **know** (*yada*) means far more than **intellectual** knowledge. *Intimate knowledge*

b) **It conveyed the sense of a close personal relationship; and protection.** It was even used of the *intimate relations* experienced by a husband and wife.

4. Don't fall in love with **sheet music**, **experience/hear/feel the music.**

5. See a **sunset**, don't try to figure out what *gradient of color orange* it is, experience it!

E. Pray Aloud: I invite you to **Thank** God personally for *Someone's faith and love* (maybe they were an example to you). **Thank them by name.**

#### IV. Slide9 (2) REVELATION OF CHRIST (17-18a)

A. *17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18a having the eyes of your hearts enlightened,*

B. **Knowing God** - 1st step to *Knowing God* is **saving faith**. 2nd step is *knowing Him better* which is meant here.

1. It involves more than knowing just **facts** about Him. **Facts are helpful ... but not enough.**

C. *The eyes of your understanding (heart) being enlightened* – Remember the song, *Open the eyes of my heart Lord.*

1. This is done by opening our **spiritual eyes**. Jn.9:39 *For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.* (obviously speaking spiritually)

2. Many Christians have learned a lot **about God**, **but what about experiencing Him?** [it's using our other eyes]

a) *Our spiritual eyes* absorb reality at the innermost level of our being.

b) *The eyes of our heart are like* an instrument that is used to perceive and understand **deep truth and deep reality.**

c) 1st **truth** comes to our **minds**, **but** for truth to truly take hold of us, it must penetrate all the way to the **heart**. **Only when this happens** can our **will** be properly energized and motivated. *It's Holy Heart-burn!*

(1) **Remember in Lk.24.** Jesus (post res) meets up w/2 disciples on the road to Emmaus. They didn't know it was Him. They converse. He stays w/them for the evening, has supper, took/blessed/broke

bread, *then* vanished. They said, *Didn't our heart burn w/in us while He talked w/us on the road & while He opened the Scriptures to us.* Holy Heart-burn!

3. Jeremiah said, *let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me* (9:24).

a) The word *know* (*yada*) means far more than **intellectual** knowledge. *Intimate knowledge*

b) *It conveyed the sense of a close personal relationship; and protection.* It was even used of the *intimate relations* experienced by a husband and wife.

4. Don't fall in love with **sheet music**, *experience/hear/feel the music.*

5. See a **sunset**, don't try to figure out what *gradient of color orange* it is, experience it!

D. Prayer Prompt: Have them pray for **themselves** ("Lord, open my eyes to know You more deeply"). *And* for **someone else** in hear tonight.

E. \*After praying they would **know God intimately** (17) **Paul** prays they would know **3 facts**: **(1)** the **past** call of salvation that produced hope (18b). **(2)** the **future** inheritance that God has in His saints (18c). **(3)** the **present** power of God that's available to believers (19-23).

## V. Slide10 **(3) HOPE OF HIS CALLING (18b) Past**

A. *that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,*

B. **Fact #1 pertains to our past.** A believer's present hope has its source in the past, when he/she was called to salvation.

1. **Hope** in Scripture is *the absolute certainty of a believer's victory in God.*

2. So we have this blessed **hope** for all eternity *that* depends **not on** our goodness, **but on His grace.**

C. Teaching: Paul wants them to grasp the hope to which God has called them, the future He has secured.

D. Prayer Prompt: Invite them to pray over situations where they've lost hope. And grasp the hope to which God has called you. And asking God to *renew their vision* of His promises.

## VI. Slide 11 (4) **RICHES OF HIS INHERITANCE (18c)** *Future*

A. *what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,*

B. Fact #2 pertains to our **Future**. Out into the future, at the time of *the great resurrection of the saints*, those set apart by God to God. God will **inherit** those whom He has purchased at a great price according to the riches of His grace.

1. This **isn't** a reference to *our inheritance we receive in him (11)* but to **His inheritance in us!**
2. We are **His treasure** in the field He bought. We are **His expensive pearl** He bought. Mt. 13:44-46 *nl* The Kingdom of Heaven is like a **treasure** that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. 45 **Again**, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!
3. **And** all because of *His glorious grace (6)* of *our glorious Father (17)*, He will receive *His glorious inheritance (18)* **which is you & me :)**

C. Teaching: Believers are God's inheritance! Paul is saying we belong to Him and are treasured.

D. Prayer Prompt: Pray Individually, thanking God that **we are His**. And asking Him to *help us live in a way that reflects His ownership*.

## VII. Slide 12 (5) **GREATNESS OF HIS POWER (19-23)** *Present*

A. *19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all*

*things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

B. **Fact #3** pertains to our **present**. His incomparably great **power** for us who believe.

1. **Power**/*dunamis* - means **a spiritually dynamic and living force**.

2. This power of God is directed **toward believers**.

C. **This magnificent accumulation of words for power** (working, great, might, power) underscores the magnitude of **God's great power** available to Christians, available now for our daily lives.

D. Christ has already won the victory over *sin, death, the world, and Satan*.

E. **\*So we do not fight for victory but from victory. We are seated with Him in the heavenly places**, where there is power, peace, and victory.

1. (2:6) Not only has God **made us alive and raised us** with Christ, **but** He has also **seated us** with Him in the heavenly places.

a) **We are positioned** spiritually in heaven, where Christ is. [standing/state; positional/experiential]

b) **We are no longer mere earthlings**; our citizenship is **in heaven** (Phil.3:20).

c) **Jesus is** the exalted Son of God, **and we are** exalted sons/daughters of God.

F. Teaching: Paul closes by pointing to **Christ's** resurrection and authority. The same power that **raised Jesus is at work in us**.

G. Prayer Prompt: Pray for **God's resurrection power** in areas of weakness, sin, discouragement, or spiritual warfare.

H. **Prayer**: Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord. **We are Yours Lord, Your body, Your inheritance, Your dwelling place**. Grow us in **grace**, deepen us in **love**, and lead us in **hope** until the day we see Christ face to face.

I. Keywords: power, hope, calling.