

Praying the Prayers of Paul

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Sunday sermon for June 2, 2013

Ephesians 1:15-21

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge---that you may be filled to the measure of all the

fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Philippians 1:9-11

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ---to the glory and praise of God.

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

THE PRAYER OF PAUL

Composed from the prayers of Paul in Ephesians 1 & 3, Philippians 1 & Colossians 1

With praise and thanksgiving, I come before you, Lord—the God of my Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father—and I ask for a Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that I can know you better. I ask, also, that you will enlighten the eyes of my heart so

that I can know the hope to which you have called me, my inheritance in the saints, and the tremendous power that is available to me as a believer.

I ask also that from your store of glorious spiritual riches you will strengthen my inner man with power so that Christ will live in me by faith. I pray that I will have the supernatural ability to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. May I know that love by experience—the kind of love that surpasses knowledge—so that I can be filled with God himself. I realize, too, that there is a Spirit in me that is able to do beyond all I can ask or imagine. Lord, may that Spirit work in me and bring glory to Jesus!

I pray that as I experience a fresh revelation of your love, this love will mature in me and grow in knowledge and wise insight. May I be able to discern what is best and to live blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

Now, Father, fill me with a knowledge of your will as your spirit gives me wisdom and understanding. Let me live a life worthy of Jesus and please him in every way. Grant me to produce good fruit, to be strengthened with all power, to have great endurance and to always praise you, the God who has rescued me from the dominion of darkness and who has brought me into the kingdom of light.

I ask all of this in the wonderful and powerful name of Jesus and I thank you that no weapon formed against me or the fulfillment of this prayer will be successful.

Amen.