



Paul's prayers—How Paul prayed

How we pray reveals a lot about our revelation and where our relationship with the Lord is. We can learn volumes from how Paul prayed. His approach was totally different from how many of us pray today. Paul, first understood what was already a reality in us and prayed from a position of victory rather than one of defeat.

A. Ephesians 1:15-23 [15] *Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, [16] Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; [17] That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: [18] The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, [19] And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, [21] Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: [22] And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, [23] Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

- a) Paul was praying that the eyes of our understanding would be opened to see and have a revelation of what we already have in Christ.

Ephesians 1:16 *Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers,*

- a) Sometimes all we have to do is make mention of certain people and God will take it from there.
No need for Vigils!
- b) Many people give thanks to God but we have to grow to a place where we not only give thanks to God but our lifestyle and what we do causes others also to give thanks to God. This is another level.
- c) What we do will either causes others to give thanks to God or not. There are certain things we can do that would cause others to not cease giving thanks to God and also praying and making mention of us in their prayers.
- d) There are **two ways** we can give thanks to God. *One* is by **ourselves**. *Two* is **through others**. We can control or even influence both. We can choose to give God thanks by ourselves any time, but we also can cause others to give thanks to God by how we live and conduct ourselves.
 - i) An example of what we can do and cause others to give thanks to God is **giving**. When we give to others we cause them to go back and give God thanks. We are partakers in that thanksgiving to God because of what we did that caused that individual to go and give God thanks.
 - o 2 Corinthians 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.
 - ii) Mathew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
 - o Light does talk nor scream. It is seen. Light shines through our godly conduct and behavior as believers. It ought to shine before men—in darkness, not before God for He is Light.
 - iii) This is talking about our godly behavior and conduct. It is the light that shines before men and will eventually cause others to give thanks unto God

Ephesians 1:17 *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

- a) 1st thought: The word “spirit” is not referring to the Holy Spirit. He has been already been given to us. This would be unbelief for Paul to pray that we are given that which we already have.
 - i) The word “spirit” here is not referring to the spirit of man nor Holy Spirit although on many occasions in the scriptures it is translated as so. The word “spirit” can also mean “mental disposition” or “team spirit.” An example is Ephesians 4:23.
- b) 2nd Thought: This spirit of wisdom and revelation knowledge of Him is for the benefit of our Soul. Our Spirit knows very well. Our Soul is lacking and needs the spirit of wisdom and revelation knowledge in our born again spirit to flow out into it.
 - i) This was more of a prayer to see whatever is already a reality in our born again spirit man to become a reality in our soulish man as well.
 - ii) Paul was praying that the Ephesians would receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.
- c) Notice that he prayed for this to happen. This spirit of wisdom and revelation knowledge of Him was not automatic to their soul even though they had received this at salvation in their new born again spirit or else he would not have prayed this way.
 - i) This prayer was for what has taken place in their spirit man to become a reality in their soulish realm.
 - ii) Many times we pray for more or brand new stuff but **Paul was rather praying for a revelation of the things that are already present and have received in Christ Jesus.** One of the major problems in the body of Christ is not necessarily what we do not have but rather what we don't have a revelation of. Knowing what we have could solve many things.
- d) We will experience victory in our Christian walk to the **degree** we receive revelation of what we already have and have been given in Christ Jesus.
 - i) Every time we talk about the revelation of something, we need to remember that it is only what already exists that we receive a revelation of.

- e) The goal should not be more this or more that—more glory, power, anointing, faith, We have more than enough in our born again spirit man but the problem is that few people know it.
 - i) This brings up a point of us renewing our minds to and through the **Word of God** and the promises it has for us.
 - o There is a difference between natural knowledge and revelation knowledge. Revelations Knowledge is superior by far.

f) **Key things Paul prayed for:**

- i) Knowledge
 - ii) Understanding
 - iii) Wisdom
 - iv) Revelation
- g) Rather than praying to get things. We need to focus on these. If we have these, we will have things and riches in plenty.
- h) *1 Kings 3:3-10 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.*
- 1 Kings 3:11-13 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done*

according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honor: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

- i) Notice that Solomon prayed for wisdom, not for riches and when he got wisdom, it came with riches. Today we have reversed this. We are saying it backward.

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

- a) These are not physical eyes, but rather inner eyes—Eyes of the heart. Paul is praying for the enlightenment of these eyes of the heart.
- b) Enlightenment comes through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God (Revelation many times happens as we renew our minds), but we can also pray that this happens as Paul prayed here. I do not think it is either or but rather a combination of both.
 - i) We can pray to **know** His call or purpose in our lives. This has to be revealed by the Lord. We can't just choose it. If you do not know what God has called you to do. You can start by praying about it. God wants to reveal it to you more than you want to know it.
 - o We need to get a grasp of His calling rather than our calling. When we desire to fulfill His calling we have fulfilled our calling. His calling is our calling.
 - ii) Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures,
 - iii) 2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.
- c) Notice that **knowing** follows the **enlightenment of our inner eyes**. We can't know until the eyes of our heart we enlightened. Once these eyes are enlightened, only then can we truly know the hope (Positive expectation) to which He has called us.

- i) We will know the following once our eyes—eyes of our hearts are enlightened:
 - o May know the hope of His calling
 - o Riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
 - o Exceeding greatness of His power to us ward who believe
- d) These “riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints” is **IN** the saints, not some other place.
- e) Inheritance to the things of God is strictly by faith in Jesus—not by country of birth or by our good works. The heirs are those who have believed on the Lord Jesus.

Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

- a) All these things or blessings and happen after our eyes are enlightened. The end result of the eyes of our understanding being enlightened is that we might know:
 - i) “the hope of his calling,”
 - ii) “the riches of the glory of his inheritance,”
 - iii) “the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward.”
- b) All these will take a revelation from God, no one can realize these blessings without revelation from God hence Paul’s prayer.
- c) All these are **according to or in proportion or to the degree** to the working of His power which he wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.
- d) This exceeding greatness of His power **is** towards us who believe—Believers. We have this power residing on the inside of us and it is exceedingly great.

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

- a) The word “wrought” means demonstrated or displayed, to be at work or operative, or “be active efficient” (Strong’s concordance).

Summary of the prayer:

The spirit of wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of Him will cause our eyes (inner eyes of our heart or understanding) to be opened and enlightened and then we shall be able to know “what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,”

B. Ephesians 3:13-21 [13] *Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. [14] For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, [16] That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; [17] That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; [19] And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. [20] Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, [21] Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Eph 3:15-16 *Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

- a) God grants us whatever we need according to His riches in glory not according to the riches of this world.
- b) We are strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Will power or any other thing won't do it.
- c) We all have an inner man.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 4: 16 says that he is renewed day by day. “2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.”

- ii) This inner man needs strengthening. The Holy Spirit helps us in that process as we also participate by renewing our minds (Romans 12:1-2). This is not achieved by only praying. We need to renew our minds.
 - iii) This is speaking about our soul (mind, character, will, personality and emotions), not our Spirit man who is perfect and complete (Colossians 2:10) and completely full of the fullness of God (1 Corinthians 6:17) and does not have to be renewed day by day.
- d) **Some have said that the inner man comprises of the spirit and soul.** If that is true, then it is still soul which is a part of that inner man that is renewed day by day and needs strengthening.
- i) 1 Peter 3:4 But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
 - ii) Saying that the inner man is the same as the hidden man would violate (1 Peter 3:4) because it makes it clear that **the hidden man is incorruptible which is only true of the born again Spirit.**
- e) **I still strongly believe that the inner man is the part of the heart which is the Soul** (2 Corinthians 4:16; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 3:16) while the hidden man spoken about in (1 Peter 3:4) is referring to the born again Spirit man who is incorruptible (1 Corinthians 6:17; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:24; Colossians 2:10; Hebrews 9:12, 15, 28; 10:14; 1 John 3:6, 9.)

This prayer is that the life of God already on the inside of us may manifest in our soul—mind, will, emotions, and Character.

- f) There is more subsequent indwelling for the Holy Spirit in a believer besides the first initial indwelling (Romans 8:9) which happens in the born again spirit.
- i) Like in Acts 4:31 many times the believers were filled again in the Holy Spirit and strengthened. This was to strengthen their inner man.
 - ii) Ephesians 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”
 - Be being filled—present tense. It is a continual command.

Eph 3:17 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

- a) Our heart is a combination of both the Spirit and Soul. This is not a prayer that Christ would dwell in our Spirit part of our hearts. He is already present and dwells in there.
- b) He dwells in our souls through faith, not by works.
- c) For something to have a root, it needs a seed first. The seed is God's Word. No seed = No root. The seed of God's word produces love. No love = no seed.
- d) The more we are rooted in God's Word, we will be grounded in the love of God.

Eph 3:18 *May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

- a) Again this comprehension is not happening in our Spirit. Our born again spirit has all the comprehension he needs. This is rather speaking about our Soul.
- b) This comprehension is not limited to a few. This prayer is that all have this comprehension
- c) Once we have our hearts rooted and grounded in love, then we will be able to comprehend all the other facets of God's love. **A revelation of God's love will open up an understanding of all other things about God.**
- d) God's love is so vast. Just experiencing on side such as the width of it will totally transform our lives, how about experiencing the depth, height, and length?

Eph 3:19 *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.*

- a) There is a knowing that is beyond head knowledge or mere intellect. It is a revelational and experiential kind of knowledge. Once we experience this knowledge, then will be filled with the fullness of God. So being filled with the fullness of God is proportional to the revelation and love of God and
- b) We are filled with the fullness of God in our soul to the degree we know and experience the love, God. Knowing God's love is not the same as experiencing it.

- c) It is those that have an experiential knowledge of this love that will be truly filled with the fullness of God.

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

- a) God is able to do far beyond and above all we ask or think.
- b) This verse shows that God does not only do exceeding abundantly above all we **ask** but also all we **think**. There is a provision that comes to us even when we do not ask or before we ask (Isaiah 65:24) but just think.
- c) The “**power**” spoken about here I believe is **the revelation of God’s love**.
 - i) This is key to allowing God to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.
 - ii) Whatever God does in our lives is proportional to the power (experiential and revelation of the love of God) working in us such as the word, faith, love of God, and so forth. These things release or activate the power of God hence working in us.
- d) God is not able to do “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think” PERIOD. It is according or proportional and to the degree of the power working in us.

Eph 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

C. Colossians 1:9-17 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; [10] That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; [11] Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; [12] Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: [13] Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: [14] In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: [15] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: [16] For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be

*thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: [17]
And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Col 1:8-9 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

- a) When Paul and his team heard of the love of the Colossians, he prayed for the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.
- b) Notice that it is after Paul heard of their love that he prayed for them to know God's will. Walking in love is one of the basic things that we should all have together before we move on to desire and pray for God's will for our lives. Walking in love is God's will for our lives and the starting place.
- c) We should not just desire to have the knowledge of God's will but be filled with it. God's Word is His will. We cannot know the will of God outside His written Word.
- d) Knowledge precedes Wisdom. No knowledge equals no wisdom. Once we have been filled with God's will, we will be able to gain wisdom.
- e) Notice that these verses speak of spiritual understanding. This makes it clear to me that there are different understandings; the natural and the spiritual understanding. The Word of God and the things of the kingdom call for spiritual understanding.
 - i) *Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*
 - ii) *Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?*
 - He talks to us while we are in the scriptures.
 - iii) Understanding is in the obedience—Hebrews 11:3. By faith we understand. When you obey in faith, you will understand.

- Obedience is believing the Gospel (2 Thessalonias 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17).

Col 1:10 *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

- a) Once we are filled with the knowledge of God's will which is His Word, then we will be able to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. Those who desire to live a holy, godly and pleasing life unto the Lord must be filled with the knowledge of His Word.
- b) Walking worthy of the Lord can't be done in our own strength. We have to be God-dependent all the way for it is Him who works in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

i) See my notes on Hebrews 11:6 (c)

- c) Although it is our faith in the Lord that justifies us and pleases Him, there are certain things we can do to please the Lord. Our actions matter to the Lord but. It for the reason of justification and righteousness. Living a godly life(walking worthy of the Lord) pleases the Lord big time.
- d) As we acquire the knowledge of God's will for our lives, we will increase in the knowledge of God. The Lord Jesus also increased in knowledge and wisdom (Luke 2:52).

i) Every believer should continue to grow and increase in the knowledge of God's Word.

Col 1:11 *Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*

- a) Here are some of the benefits of being filled with God's Word.

- i) We are strengthened and encouraged.
- ii) We become patient.
- iii) Longsuffering
- iv) Joyfulness

- b) All these things proceed out of being filled with the knowledge of God's Word.

- c) Grace brings us strength. Grace for strength (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

- a) We should be giving thanks to the Father for making us partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

- a) We have been delivered from the power of darkness (Satan) and have been translated into the Kingdom of Jesus. We are either in the Kingdom of light or darkness but not both. Before we were born again, we belonged to the kingdom of darkness but as soon as we accepted and receive the Lord Jesus, we were instantly translated into His Kingdom, the kingdom of light. We have a new King and are now operating under different kingdom rules.
- b) Another similar example is the **Cross**. There is no power in the wooden cross. Power is in the person, significance, and what was accomplished at the cross—the finished work of Jesus. Focus ought not to be on the symbol but rather on the person.