

## **Prayer Emphasis Pt. 3 (Pauline)**

**Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, January 19, 2020**

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**Main Theme – Beginning the New Year w/ a Series on Prayer – Pt. 3 Highlights ‘Pauline’ Prayers**

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### **WORSHIP & PRAYER**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Special Events**
  - Potluck Supper – Sunday, January 26, Following the Service
- **Annual Business Meeting**

The 2019 Annual Business Meeting will be held TODAY following Service. A brief meal will be provided for those who plan on attending. Parents with children—you are invited to observe and participate in the Annual Meeting from the Community Room. May the Lord bless our deliberations!

### **MORNING OFFERING**

**NOTE** – At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

- Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work
- Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH**
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### **INTRODUCTIONS**

As always it is wonderful to see you. I look forward to these moments of corporate worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you as we continue to journey into 2020! Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes.

### **SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1**

**FYI** – I have chosen to open the New Year with a multi-part SERIES on prayer. EACH installment of this series has addressed the issues of HOW and WHAT to pray (drawing upon selections found in both the Old and New Testaments). We have addressed MUCH thus far...

#### **1) The Aaronic Blessing**

##### **Numbers 6:24–26 (NIV)**

24 ““The LORD bless you  
and keep you;  
25 the LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
26 the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.””

#### **2) The Lord’s (Disciples’) Prayer**

##### **Matthew 6:9–13**

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
10 your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
11 Give us today our daily bread.  
12 And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
13 And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.””

**KEY** – Feel free to check out this message/accompanying notes online ([www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org)).

## SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

This morning I want to continue this series by examining the PRAYER life of the apostle PAUL...

**NOTE 1** – There are many terms that we could use to DESCRIBE the apostle Paul (e.g., courageous, bold, unrelenting, unwavering, passionate, compassionate, brilliant, insightful, mighty in the Holy Spirit, etc.). But there is one term that is often neglected: i.e., PRAYERFUL.

**NOTE 2** – Study the life and writings of Paul and you will quickly come to see that he was a man given to PRAYER. Not only did he take the time to seek the Lord for the sake of his own ministry, etc., but he was given to PRAY FOR THOSE whom he loved in Christ...

...It is this LATTER element that I want to emphasize this morning (i.e., his prayers for OTHERS).

**FYI** – There are MANY ways that I could teach through the prayers of the apostle Paul. For instance, I could lead you into select prayers of this preeminent figure of the Early Church, dissecting them as we did the Lord's Prayer and the Aaronic Blessing in weeks past. However, I have chosen to go a bit of a DIFFERENT route...

Namely, I want to outline an ARRAY of elements that Paul prayed about/for in a RECURRING manner. i.e., Things he longed to see in the lives of those whom he cared for/ministered to. As we consider what the apostle Paul sought in prayer (ongoing manner), our prayer-lives SHOULD BE shaped, informed and impacted.

LET'S DELVE IN...

## **POINT 1 (Wisdom & Knowledge)**

**KEY – Paul Prayed for Wisdom and Knowledge**

### **Ephesians 1:17 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 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.

### **Colossians 1:9b–10a (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

9 . . . 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, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way...

**NOTE 1** – Paul prayed for the people of God to be a people of deep spiritual KNOWLEDGE. i.e., A people who understood BOTH the nature of the Lord and His ways (that they might “know him better” and “please him in every way”). Relatedly...

**NOTE 2** – Paul prayed for the people of God to be a people given to godly WISDOM. i.e., A people of genuine spiritual insight who accurately perceived HOW to APPLY divine precepts into PRACTICAL, daily life and living (“practical know-how which comes from God” W&Z).

**KEY** – This should influence HOW/WHAT we pray for OURSELVES and for ONE ANOTHER...

**APP 1** – Pray for God to grant YOU spiritual knowledge and wisdom. Pray for Him to help YOU understand His nature and ways (knowledge). Pray for Him to help YOU connect what you know with how you live (wisdom)—SO THAT YOU might know Him better and serve Him more fully.

**APP 2** – Pray for God to grant your BRETHREN such knowledge and wisdom. Pray for Him to help your PEERS understand His character and precepts (knowledge). Pray for Him to help THEM connect what they know with how they live (wisdom)—SO THAT they might know Him better and serve Him more fully!

## POINT 2 (Peace)

### KEY – Paul Prayed for Peace

There are TWO aspects to peace that I want to emphasize...

#### 1) Paul Prayed for Christians to Know the Peace of God (Restful Repose Amidst Adversity)

##### 2 Thessalonians 3:16a (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you **peace** at **all times** and in **every way**.

##### John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

#### 2) Paul Prayed for Christians to Know Peace w/ One Another (i.e., Harmony/Unity)

##### Romans 15:5–6 (NLT, Emphasis Mine)

5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete **harmony** with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with **one voice**, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

KEY – That which unites us is GREATER THAN that which divides:

##### Ephesians 4:1–5

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**APP 1** – It is appropriate to seek the PEACE of the Lord in the midst of ADVERSE situations. It is appropriate to pray for others to experience the peace of God in the midst of tough times. Pray for YOURSELF and for your BRETHERN in Christ!

**APP 2** – It is appropriate to pray for PEACE amongst the Body of Christ. i.e., That the people of God would experience a God-centered/honoring harmony. IF you want to pray according to the heart/desires of God, you can always pray for UNITY (cf. John 17)!

### POINT 3 (Hope)

**KEY – Paul Prayed for Hope (An Abiding Sense of Hopefulness)**

**Ephesians 1:18 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

18 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 . . .

**Romans 15:13**

13 May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**DEF – Hope is the CONFIDENT EXPECTATION of what God has promised and its strength is in His FAITHFULNESS. Thus, hope is the conviction that God will ultimately KEEP His Word as it pertains to promises for this life and the life to come...**

...Let me UNPACK this a bit...

**NOTE 1 – God is a God of PROMISES (pertaining to this life & life to come). To cite an example...**

**Philippians 4:19 (Promise of Provision to the Righteous)**

19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

**NOTE 2 – God is NOT given to deception but is FAITHFUL to keep His Word/Promises...**

**Numbers 23:19**

19 God is not human, that he should lie,  
not a human being, that he should change his mind.  
Does he speak and then not act?  
Does he promise and not fulfill?

**NOTE 3 – We can grow DISCOURAGED and HOPELESS in the midst of ADVERSE situations.**

**Jeremiah 20:14, 18**

14 Cursed be the day I was born!  
May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!

18 Why did I ever come out of the womb  
to see trouble and sorrow  
and to end my days in shame?

**Q. How many can relate to this?** The GAP between what you know and what you feel!

**NOTE 4** – We must CLING to the hope God offers in the midst of CHALLENGING times!

**Psalm 42:5**

5 Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,

for I will yet praise him,

my Savior and my God.

**NOTE 5** – Prayer for hope/hopefulness is a KEY for VICTORY! (For You & Others).

**Ephesians 1:18 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

18 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 . . .

**Romans 15:13**

13 May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**APP 1** – Feeling run down and weary, depressed by the circumstances in which you find yourself? Do you look forward and see nothing but ongoing difficulty and affliction? It is time to APPEAL to the God of HOPE!

**APP 2** – Take the time to pray for God to instill HOPE in the hearts of your BRETHERN in Jesus Christ. Your prayers may give them the support/bolstering they need to press on in Him! Don't forget that we are in this thing TOGETHER!

## **POINT 4 (LOVE)**

**KEY** – Paul Prayed for Growth in Love

**Philippians 1:9 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

9 And this is my prayer: that your **love** may **abound more and more** . . .

**1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

12 May the Lord make your **love increase** and **overflow** for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

**NOTE** – If the Christian faith and life is FOUNDED upon anything, it is founded upon LOVE...

## 1) Love is the Core of the Greatest Commandment

### Matthew 22:36–40

36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

## 2) Love is the Key to Biblical Obedience

### John 14:15

15 “If you love me, keep my commands.

## 3) Love is the Supreme Indicator of Faith/Connection w. God

### John 13:35

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

## 4) Love is the Loftiest Virtue in Christianity

### 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**KEY** – And there is NO LIMIT to the degree to which we can PERFECT/ABOUND in love...

**Q. Have you reached the point where you are perfectly loving? Does this realistically exist?**

### Philippians 1:9 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

9 And this is my prayer: that your **love** may **abound more and more** . . .

**APP 1** – Pray for God to cultivate love within YOUR heart (for God and your neighbor).

**APP 2** – Pray for God to cultivate love within His CHURCH (for God and our fellow man).



## POINT 5 (GODLINESS)

### KEY – Paul Prayed for Righteousness and Purity

#### Philippians 1:9–11 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be **pure** and **blameless** for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of **righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

23 May God himself, the God of peace, **sanctify** you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept **blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

**NOTE** – The apostle Paul understood the SIGNIFICANCE of RIGHTEOUS living...

### 1) He Recognized that Sinful Living Yields Disaster

#### Galatians 5:16–17, 19–21 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. **I warn you**, as I did before, that those who live like this will **not inherit the kingdom of God**.

### 2) He Recognized that Godly Living is the Appropriate Response to God’s Grace in Christ

#### Romans 6:1b–2

Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

#### Titus 2:11–14 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say “**No**” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

### 3) He Recognized that Godly Living is God's Call for His People

#### **Ephesians 2:8–10 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**APP 1** – Do you STRUGGLE with sin and temptation? Pray for the Lord to make you HOLY—that you might live a life of godliness, blamelessness, righteousness, etc. before God and man. SUCH a life shall receive REWARD in this life and in the life to come!

**APP 2** – Pray for a spirit of holiness to CAPTURE the Church of Jesus Christ. In an age of sinful DECADENCE and moral COMPROMISE, we need a move of the Spirit now more than ever before! We need less of the HOLLYWOOD Spirit and more of the HOLY Spirit!

### POINT 6 (CONNECTION)

#### **KEY – Paul Prayed for Relational Connection**

#### **1 Thessalonians 3:10–11 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may **see you again** and supply what is lacking in your faith. 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus **clear the way for us to come to you**.

#### **Q. What does this reveal about the apostle Paul?**

**A.** He valued his brethren and wanted to be WITH them!

**NOTE** – Though Paul was connected with them in spirit (Col. 2:5) and through his writings, he knew that there was NO substitute for being with them PERSONALLY (i.e., immediate presence and face-to-face connection).

...No form of connection was MORE tender, real and beneficial than actual, in-person connection. Such connection allowed for him to make INVESTMENT into his peers (and allowed for his peers to invest in him).

**KEY** – THIS IS SOMETHING that we must recognize in this DIGITAL AGE.

Never before have so many people been connected—yet DISCONNECTED. Thanks to social media, we are often more concerned with the thoughts/activities of people miles away than those in the same room as us!

**Q. Don't believe me?** Go out to dinner and LOOK at how many people are on their phones...

**KEY** – Like Paul, we should long for, desire and seek out connection with one another. May we be a people who—like Paul—seek the Lord along these lines! How amazing would it be if we prayed for God to CLEAR THE WAY for human interaction/connection, that we might all supply what is LACKING in one another...

...While some people prayed for snow so they could skip church, I prayed for church because I realize that I—that we—need this! We need the connection, fellowship, interaction, and comradery available IN and THROUGH Christ!

**APP 1** – Pray for God to make a way for YOU to deepen in human connection/sp. interaction.

**APP 2** – Pray for God to make a way for US to deepen in human connection/sp. interaction(s).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

**NOTE** – We have analyzed but a FRACTION of the prayer life of Paul. As has been noted, Paul was a man who PRAYED FOR God’s PEOPLE to experience and know...

- 1) Wisdom and Knowledge**
- 2) Peace (of God and w/ One Another)**
- 3) Hope (Hopefulness/Confident Expectation)**
- 4) Love (Abounding/Ever-Increasing Love)**
- 5) Righteousness & Personal Holiness**
- 6) Human Connection/Relationship**

**KEY** – We’d do well to CONSIDER the prayer life of this eminent apostle and MIMIC him in kind!