

## STUDY UNIT 3

Eph. 3:14–19 / Phil.1:9–11 / Col. 1:9–12

### THE PRAYERS OF PAUL FOR OTHERS

There are 35 prayers of the apostle Paul in the New Testament. Wow! Moreover, these are **all** made to God for others. Our study of prayer this session is to read and study these prayers, which are presented below, so that we can practically learn how to pray by imitating Paul's example of interceding for others.

As you begin to pray for others that God may bring to your mind, this condensed summary of Paul's prayers may help guide your prayers, for they are given to us to clearly tell us what God wants us to ask for. Remember, the fervent, effectual prayers of a righteous man can accomplish much. What will God do this week as you intercede for others?

This Unit has three parts to its structure. **First**, for three of Paul's prayers (Col 1:9–12; Phil 1:9–11; Eph 3:14–19) a list of what Paul prays is given with the prayer itself to give you an example of how you might use the concepts of the prayer yourself in interceding for others. **Second**, the other prayers from across the New Testament are quoted. **Finally**, at the end of all 35 prayers you will find an 8–point summary of all Paul's prayers to give you another example of how you might pray for others.

#### 1. Paul's Prayers from Ephesians 3:14–19; Philippians 1:9–11; and Colossians 1:9–12

For each of the following three sample prayers of Paul, notice the summaries provided, and consider how you might pray in the same way as Paul for those whom the Lord has placed in your life.

#### **For the Christians in Ephesus, Paul asked 4 things of the Father:**

1. **That they would be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**
2. **That Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith,**
3. **That they would be able to comprehend the love of Christ,**
4. **That they might be filled up to all the fulness of God.**

*“For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know*

*the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God.”*  
Ephesians 3:14–19

### **For the Christians in Philippi, Paul asked 4 things of the Father:**

1. **That their love would abound more and more,**
2. **That they would approve the things that are excellent,**
3. **That they would be sincere and blameless,**
4. **That they would be filled with the fruit of righteousness.**

*“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”*  
Philippians 1:9–11

### **For the Christians in Colossae Paul asked 6 things of the Father:**

1. **That they would be filled with the knowledge of God’s will,**
2. **That they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,**
3. **That they would be fruitful in every good work,**
4. **That they would increase in the knowledge of God,**
5. **That they would be strengthened with all power,**
6. **That they would live in continual thanksgiving to the Father.**

*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”*  
Colossians 1:3–12

## **2. The Other Prayers of Paul from the New Testament**

*“For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.”*  
Romans 1:9–12

*“Brethren, my heart's desire and **my prayer to God for them** is for their salvation.”*  
Romans 10:1

*“**Be devoted to one another in brotherly love**; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, **devoted to prayer**, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.”*  
Romans 12:10–13

*“**I thank my God always concerning you** for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*  
1 Corinthians 1:4–9

*“Now **we pray to God that** you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved. For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; **this we also pray for**, that you be made complete.”*  
2 Corinthians 13:7–9

*“For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while **making mention of you in my prayers**; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.  
**I pray that** the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”*  
Ephesians 1:15–19

*“With **all prayer** and petition pray **at all times** in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert **with all perseverance** and petition **for all the saints**, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*  
Ephesians 6:18–20

*“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all**, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.”*  
Philippians 1:3–5

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything **by prayer and supplication** with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*  
Philippians 4:6–7

*“For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless **I am with you in spirit**, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.”*  
Colossians 2:5

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.”*  
Colossians 4:2–4

*“**We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;** constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father.”*  
1 Thessalonians 1:2–3

*“For this reason **we also constantly thank God** that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews.”*

1 Thessalonians 2:13–14

*“For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, **as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?***

*Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”*  
1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

*“**Pray without ceasing;** in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*  
1 Thessalonians 5:17–18

*“Brethren, **pray for us.**”*

1 Thessalonians 5:25

*“**We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren,** as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. [...] **To this end we also pray for you always,** that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power; so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.”*

2 Thessalonians 1:3–12

*“**But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.** It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.*

*“**Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.**”*  
2 Thessalonians 2:13–17

*“Finally, brethren, **pray for us that** the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you, and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.”*  
2 Thessalonians 3:1–2

*“**May the Lord** direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.”*  
2 Thessalonians 3:5

*“Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!”*  
2 Thessalonians 3:16

*“**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.**”*  
2 Thessalonians 3:18

*“**I thank Christ Jesus our Lord**, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. **Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**”*  
1 Timothy 1:12–17

*“Therefore **I want the men in every place to pray**, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.”*  
1 Timothy 2:8

*“**I solemnly charge you in the presence of God** and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.”*  
1 Timothy 5:21

*“**I charge you in the presence of God**, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time -- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! **Amen.**”*  
1 Timothy 6:13–16

*“I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.”*  
2 Timothy 1:3–4

*“To Titus, my true child in a common faith: **Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.**”*  
Titus 1:4

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers**, because I hear of your love and of the faith*

*which you have toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all the saints; and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake. For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.”* Philemon 3–7

*“At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that **through your prayers I will be given to you.**”* Philemon 22

*“**Pray for us**, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things. And I urge you all the more to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now **may the God of peace**, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”* Hebrews 13:18–21

### 3. A Summary of the Prayers of Paul for Others

Here is a **condensed summary of these 35 Pauline prayers** for others. It is not meant to be all inclusive, but useful. When we pray for others we can confidently use these supplications as we seek to see them grow in their faith and their hope and their love.

1. **That they would know God’s will and be committed to it,**
2. **That they would hunger and thirst to know more and more about God,**
3. **That they would be strengthened to do God’s will by the Holy Spirit,**
4. **That they would be given wisdom and make right decisions,**
5. **That they would please God in all that they do in life,**
6. **That they would grow in the faith and be useful and fruitful in all they do,**
7. **That their love for others would grow and grow,**
8. **That they would excel still more in faith, hope, and selfless love.**

## **UNIT 3 STUDY SESSION #1:**

In preparation for the group study, read and study the above scriptures and summary and then complete the following self-evaluation.

### **Evaluating My Prayer Life Compared To Paul's**

1. Every one of these prayers were for others. Paul did ask others to pray for him, but we have no record of him making requests to God for Himself. When I consider my own prayer life, I would estimate that my prayers for others are \_\_\_\_ much like Paul's \_\_\_\_ 75% for others \_\_\_\_ 50% for others \_\_\_\_ Less
2. When I look at **the content** of Paul's prayers, and consider what He was asking God to do for others \_\_\_\_ I mostly see the same things I pray for \_\_\_\_ I learned a lot \_\_\_\_ I have a lot to learn
3. Paul's concerns for the spiritual growth of those he had assumed responsibility for seems to completely dominate his prayer life and they seem to be fervent and passionate. As I compare my own prayer life with this, I would say that \_\_\_\_ I pray just like him \_\_\_\_ I pray often like this \_\_\_\_ I pray mostly for myself and usually without much fervor.

### **Discussion Questions For Study Session #1**

1. There are a lot of prayers to consider in this study. What did you learn about prayer from Paul's prayers?
2. There are 4 different summaries of what Paul prayed in the study. Were these helpful in your own prayers? Did you use any as you prayed yourself?
3. How did your times with the Lord and your journaling go this week?

### **Prayer Together**

## **UNIT 3 STUDY SESSION #2:**

Our goal in these studies is to grow in our relationship with God by the maturing of our prayer life. Our ongoing project through these studies is to set aside regular and special times to **SEEK THE LORD IN PRAYER** and to keep a **PRAYER JOURNAL** of our requests and God's answers. Given the focus of this study of Paul's prayers, consider choosing one or more of the following projects for this week:

### **Preparation For Session #2: Application Project**

1. Meditate on one or more of Paul's 35 prayers every day before you begin your prayers to God. Pray as Paul did for the week.
2. Use the summary of Paul's prayers at the end of the study, every day this week, as you intercede for others on your prayer list.
3. Expand your journal as the Lord leads, that you may remember your requests while you watch and wait. (Mk. 14:34–39, Ps. 37:39–40)

### **Discussion Questions**

Well, were you encouraged in your prayer life this week?

If you were able to pursue one of the projects for this week, can you share with us how it went?

### **Prayer Together**