

Colossians 1:1-14

Week 2 - All About Prayer (Prayer, part II)

? Did you grow up praying? What did prayer look like for you when you were a child? How is that different than now?

Previously on Prayer

In our last study, we looked at Paul's prayer for the new church at Colossae and how Paul continues to encourage the people of the church even during his own imprisonment. This week, we dive deeper into the concept of prayer, while keeping in mind Paul's prayer for and encouragement of the Colossians.

What is prayer? Prayer is talking to God. There is no wrong way to talk to God! The Bible gives us some examples of prayer and gives food for thought about why and how we pray.

Colossians 1:3-14 (NIV)

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² 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. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

? What types of things does Paul pray about for the believers in Colossae? (v. 9-12)

? In this passage, Paul establishes the importance of prayer through his own example of praying for the believers. Why is prayer essential in the life of a believer?

? What have you prayed about recently, either for yourself or for others?

In Matthew, Jesus' disciples asked him how they should pray. Read Jesus' response in Matthew 6:9-13.

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

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.'

? What aspects of prayer does Jesus outline in this passage?

? How does Paul's prayer in Colossians 1 mirror Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6?

? What do you usually say when you pray? Is there a pattern in how you pray? What posture do you take in prayer, if any (kneeling, closing your eyes, folding your hands, etc.)?

? Paul is basically "praying out loud" for the believers at Colossae—demonstrating the value of corporate prayer. Why do you think he felt it was important to tell them his specific prayer requests?

? Optional question: How do you feel about someone praying out loud for you? How comfortable are you praying out loud for others?

? How does prayer open your heart and mind to God?

Spend the last ten minutes of your study time praying together.

For Discussion and Accountability

God desires that we pray boldly, asking for what's in our hearts—and He promises to hear us! (1 John 5:14-15) With that in mind:

? How do we pray more authentically and more boldly?

? What is on your heart to pray for this week?