

“pray in every way” Mar.1-2; 2019

Prayer in the Life of the apostle Paul

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel (Eph.6:18-19).

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy” (Phil.1:3-4).

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Phil.4:6)

“Pray without ceasing” (1Thes.5:17).

“For God is my witness, whom I serve ^[a] with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers” (Rom.1:9).

“I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting” (1Tim.2:8).

“I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day” (2Tim.1:3).

1). Saul meets Jesus on the Damascus Road: *“And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank” (Acts 9:9). The Lord said to Ananias, “Arise and go ... and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, **for behold, he is praying**” (v11).*

2). Prayer which initiates mission: *“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers ... As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. (Acts 13:1-3).*

3). Paul sets foot in Europe and seeks out those who are praying: *“And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there” (Acts 16:13-14).*

4). Prayer in prison: *“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed” (Acts 16:25-26).*

5). Prayer for the Holy Spirit: *“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied” (Acts 19:6).*

6). Paul’s Fasting prayers: *“But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred*

this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' Therefore, take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me" (Acts 28:21-25).

7). Paul's 4 Apostolic prayers: Eph.1:17-19; 3:16-19; Phil.1:9-11; Col.1:9-12.

8). Paul's warfare praying: *"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Eph.6.17-19).*

9). All God's great men have been great prayers: Those who immediately come to mind are **Moses, Elijah, Jesus, the early church and Paul.** Other prayers come to mind including **David's** prayer of repentance, **Solomon's** Prayer of Dedication, **the Returned Exiles** as they prayed together as the people of God.

"prayer in every way"

Personal prayer (Lk.9:18; 11:1; 2:44; Eph.6:19; Isa.62:1; 1Sam.1:10)

Petition prayers (including intercession for lost) (2Sam.7:27; 1Kings 9:3; 18:37; 2Kings 19:20; 22:19; 2Chron.ch.6; Ps.3:4; 34:4; 143:1; Neh.1:6, 11; Rom.1:9; 10:1; 15:30; Eph.6:18; 2Tim.1:3; Phil.4:6)

Answered prayer (1Kings 9:3; 2Kings 20:5; 2Chron.7:12; Ps.61:5; 66:19; 120:1; Jn.11:41;

Church praying corporately (church in Acts 4:24; 12:5)

Prayer and the filling of the Holy Spirit (Acts [1:14, 2:4]; 4:31)

Prayer and foreign mission (Mk.11:17; Acts 13)

Prayer and power (1King ch.18; Acts4:31; 16:25-26)

Prayer and Scripture (Ps.119:18; Acts 6.4; 1Tim.4:5).

Prayer and Worship (1Tim.2:8); Ps.141:2; Rev.5:8; 8:3-4)

24/7 prayer (Ps.134:1-2; 1Chron.9:33; Isa.62:6-7; 1Tim.5:5).

Miracle prayer (Elijah, James 5:17-18).

Prayer of faith (Lk.24:49; 1Kings 17:1; Mat.21:22; James 5:15)

Prayer and Fasting Ps.35:13; Ezra 8:21-23; Daniel 9:3; Mk.9:29; Lk.2:37; Acts 27:21; 1Cor.7:5

Praying in tongues (1 Cor.14:14-15; Mk.15:34)

Praying Scripture from Paul's apostolic prayers: Eph.1:17-19; 3:16-19; Phil.1:9-11; Col.1:9-12

Targeted prayer (1Sam.1:27; Acts 12:5)

Prayers of repentance (2Chron.6:30; Ps.27:27; 30:10; 51; Isa.6; Neh. 9)

Prayer and outpouring/revival (2Chron.7:14; Isa.64; Acts ch.2, 4, 8, 10)

Warfare praying (Ex.17:11-13; 1Chron.5:20; Dan.ch.9-10; Mk.9:29; Eph.6; Acts 16:25)

Answered prayer (Gen.24:45; 30:6; 1Sam.1:27; Ex.22:27; Ps.66:19; Prov.15:29; Isa.38:5; Jonah 2:1, 7; Lk.1:13; Heb.5:7; James 5:15-16; 1Jn.5:14)

Prayer as costly intercession (Jesus: Gethsemane 3 Gospels & Heb.5:7; Rom.8:26)

WORKSHOP

1). Identify different types of praying:

(a) PRAYER in the life of Jesus:

- 1) Prayer opens heaven and brings empowerment: the BAPTISM of Jesus (Lk.3:21-22) *
- 2) Withdrawal Prayer (5:16)
- 3) All night Prayer: Jesus chooses 12 apostles (6:12-16)
- 4) Prayer and REVELATION: Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi (9:18-22) *
- 5) Prayer and TRANSFIGURATION (9:28-36) *
- 6) Prayer for Christian Workers (10:2)
- 7) Jesus' teaching on Prayer (11:1-13; and 18:1-14)
- 8) Jesus' Pastoral Prayer for Peter (22:31-32)
- 9) Prayer prepares for the Cross: GETHSEMANE (22:39-46; Matt.26:36-46; Mk.14:32-42)
- 10) Prayer prepares for PENTECOST (Lk.24:49; see also Acts 1:8)

Ask yourself directly: how does this apply to ME? Of course, the occasions of Jesus' praying are unique to Him but ask yourself what you can learn from Jesus' prayer life.

(b) PRAYER in the early church:

- 1) Prayer that prepares for Pentecost (Lk.24:49; Acts 1:8, 14)
- 2) Prayer that precipitates the Second Outpouring (4:23-31)
- 3) Prayer that precedes the Gentile Outpouring (10-11)
- 4) Prayer that prompts the release of Peter from prison (12:5-19)
- 5) Prayer that produces foreign mission (13:1-4)
- 6) Prayer that prompts the releases of Paul and Silas from prison (16:22-34)

(c) in Scripture generally: I give above a list of "prayer in every way," I include many different types of praying and the list could be enlarged.

2). How does prayer in our own personal life relate to all this? Is there momentum and rhythm in your personal prayer life? This an opportunity to share insights with the group, but requires personal reflection when you go home. Is prayer a priority in your life? Do you have a gift of intercession? Would you consider praying and fasting as part of your regular rhythm of prayer?

3). How does prayer in our local church relate to this? This is the difficult one! How do you translate your personal momentum into your church praying? How do you do this if you are not a leader? What would you do to give momentum to your churches praying? The prayer meeting can be a block to the Holy Spirit's momentum.

Do you have a couple of brothers you pray with regularly when the heavens are opened and you encounter the Holy Spirit moving in power? I am reminded of Paul's words to the Corinthians 14:15, "I will pray with the Spirit I will pray with the understanding ..." also Jude 1:20, "praying in the Holy Spirit."

4). A proposed method of prayer: praying through Scripture: *I want you to choose one of Paul's apostolic prayers and in small groups pray through those prayers in a spontaneous manner allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us.*

Paul's 4 apostolic prayers:

1. Ephesians 1:17-19a

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your heart being enlightened; 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 exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power"

2. Ephesians 3:16-19

"I pray that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

3. Philippians 1:9-11

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

4. Colossians 1:9b-12

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you "... I ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."

One person reporting back regarding: Practical outcomes for our personal prayer life.

One person reporting back regarding: Practical outcomes for our church's prayer life.

Available from "Christian Resources" <https://sites.google.com/site/derrickharrison2012/about-derrick-harrison/home>

A page for "Momentum" is on my website which includes the following studies:

"The Prayer Life of Jesus from Luke's Gospel" & "The High-Priestly Prayer of Jesus" (Jn.17)

"The Prayer Life of the Early Church from Acts" (Luke)

"Father's House" (Solomon's Dedication of the Temple, 2Chron.ch.1, ch.5, etc.)

"Prayer in Isaiah"

"Caught on Camera (Abraham, Moses, Solomon and Elijah, 1Kings ch.16-19)

The Presence of God (the Returned Exiles: Neh.ch.9)