



immanuel institute

Prayer: Week Six

Paul: How to Pray for Your Church

Introduction

JC Ryle, *Do You Pray*

Stanley Gale, *Why Do We Pray*

Joel Beeke, *How Can I Cultivate Private Prayer*

Paul Tautges, *Brass Heavens*

RC Sproul, *Does Prayer Change Things*

Landon Coleman, *Pray Better*

“Sit me down and ask me to pray for twenty minutes? Odds are I’ll be asleep in five.”

(Landon Coleman, *Pray Better*)

“I think prayer is hard. And while I’m being honest, I’d also like to say that I think prayer is perplexing.”

(Landon Coleman, *Pray Better*)

“If I am small and know nothing, and if God is big and knows everything, why would I want to do so much talking?”

“Surely prayer isn’t like a civic petition that requires a minimum number of signatures to be considered valid?” (Landon Coleman, *Pray Better*)

Help with Prayer

- Kevin DeYoung, *Daily Doctrine*
 - “We don’t always think of prayer as a doctrinal topic, but many of the best systematic theologies have a section on prayer, often as an aspect of God’s providential care. This makes

sense. In an ultimate sense, God doesn't _____ our prayers, but he has chosen to govern the world through _____ means, and one of those means is the prayer of his people. God has ordained prayer so that we may see our dependency upon him and so that he receives glory as the giver of all good gifts.”

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
 - Rules to Be Observed in Prayer:
 - “First, _____ to God.”
 - “Second ... a sense of our _____.”
 - “Third ... the suppression of all _____.”
 - “Fourth ... a sure confidence of being _____.”

- Jonathan Gibson, *Be Thou My Vision: A Daily Liturgy for Worship*

Paul on Prayer

- Paul called Christians to pray at _____, without ceasing (Ephesians 6:18-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

- Paul reminded Christians they have two _____ in prayer – the Holy Spirit and Jesus (Romans 8:26-30, 31-39).

- Paul felt great _____ for the spiritual health of the churches he had planted (2 Corinthians 11:16-29).

- Paul knew he was absolutely _____ on God, which is why he asked for prayer (2 Corinthians 1:8-11).

Paul's Prayers for Ephesus

“Just as God's Word must reform our theology, our ethics, and our practices, so also must it reform our praying. The chief purpose of this book, then, is to think through some of Paul's prayers, so that we may align our prayer habits with his. We want to learn what to pray for, what arguments to use, what

priorities we should adopt, what beliefs should shape our prayers, and much more ... We shall try to grasp not only the rudiments of Paul's prayers but also how Christians can adopt Paul's theology of prayer into their own attempts to pray." (DA Carson, *Praying with Paul*)

- **Ephesians 1:3-23**

- Our prayers should be built on the gracious and sovereign work of God in _____ (Ephesians 1:3-14).
- When we see evidence of faith in Jesus and love for believers, we should give _____ to God for his gracious and sovereign work (Ephesians 1:15A-16).
- We should pray that God's _____ would be realized in the lives of his people (Ephesians 1:17-19A).
 - Paul prayed the Ephesians would know _____ better!
 - Paul prayed the Ephesians would know the _____ better!
 - Paul prayed the Ephesians would know God's _____ better!
- We should _____ the "wonderful works of God" in our prayers (Ephesians 1:19B-23).

- **Ephesians 3:14-21**

- We should pray with the recognition that God is our _____ in heaven (Ephesians 3:14-15).
- We should pray that God would _____ his people with _____ through the Holy Spirit in their inner being (Ephesians 3:16-19).

"The remarkable fact about this petition, however, is that Paul clearly assumes that his readers, Christians though they are, do not adequately appreciate the love of Christ. He now wants them to have the power to grasp just how great the love of Christ is. This is not a prayer that we might love Christ more (though that is a good thing to pray for); rather, it is a prayer that we might better grasp his love for us ... A genuine and deep perception of the love of Christ rarely comes to the person who is not spending much time in the Scriptures." (DA Carson, *Praying with Paul*)

- We should pray believing that God is _____ to do “far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

“Has God become so central to all our thought and pursuits, and thus to our praying, that we cannot easily imagine asking for anything without consciously longing that the answer bring glory to God?”
(DA Carson, *Praying with Paul*)

Application

- When you pray for people who are _____, do you include these kinds of prayers?
- When you pray for your church to _____, do you include this kind of growth!
- If a church was going to pray like Paul prayed, it only makes sense that they would also “do church” in a way that _____ with what they were asking God to do.
- “Lessons from the School of Prayer” (DA Carson, *Praying with Paul*)
 - “Much praying is not done because we do not _____ to pray.”
 - “Adopt practical ways to _____ mental drift.”
 - “At various periods in your life, develop, if possible, a prayer-_____ relationship.”
 - “Choose _____ – but choose them well.”
 - “Develop a _____ for your prayer lists.”
 - “Mingle praise, confession, and intercession, but when you intercede, try to tie as many requests as possible to _____.”
 - “If you are in any form of spiritual leadership, work at your _____ prayers.”
 - “Pray until you _____.”
- *Other Prayers for the Church in the Bible*
 - *Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer (John 17)*
 - *The First Prayer Meeting (Acts 4:23-31)*
 - *Paul’s Prayer of Thanksgiving (Philippians 1:3-10)*
 - *John’s Prayer for Physical and Spiritual Health (3 John 1:1-4)*