

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series: Life-Changing Prayers
Part 1: Ephesians 1:15-21**

**Wednesday, January, 4th, 2023
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

Apostle Paul, the Praying Apostle

When you read the epistles of Apostle Paul, one of the things you will discover is how much emphasis he places on prayer. You will be struck by how much weight he put on prayer and to what depth he went into in his prayer. Apostle Paul believes prayer is essential to succeed in ministry and, most importantly, to lead a successful Christian life. Hence, he did the following three things:

1. He constantly prays for his disciples: he believes no amount of teaching and instruction can achieve God's ultimate intent without prayer. See examples below:

- **Romans 1:9** “... without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers....”
- **Romans 10:1** “... Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”
- **Ephesians 1:16** “do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers”
- **Philippians 1:3-4** “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy”
- **Colossians 1:3** “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you”
- **Philemon 1:4** “I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers”

I believe he was referring to prayer when he said in Galatians 4:19, “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.” He uses similar language to describe Epaphras' ministry in Colossians 4:12, “Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

2. He constantly asks for prayer from his disciples: Apostle Paul believes that the power of prayer is greater when it is mutual. Not only does he pray, but he also asks people to pray for him:

- **Romans 15:30** “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me”
- **2 Thessalonians 3:1** “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you
- **Colossians 4:3-4** “meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

3. He constantly emphasizes in importance of prayer in believers' life: he believes that prayer must be an essential practice in the life of a believers.

- **Philippians 4:6** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** “Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
- **Ephesians 6:18** “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.”

Apostle Paul's Pattern for Prayer

Perhaps one of Apostle Paul's best gifts to us in his writings is his pattern of prayers. He does not hesitate to tell his readers that he is praying for them, nor is he reluctant to tell them what he is praying for. These prayers provide a window into his heart for disciples. They establish a standard for prayer that few of our prayers today can meet. These prayers have been dubbed "The Pauline Prayers." They are spirit inspired and are meant for us as a pattern.

I believe one of the most effective ways to pray is to pray these prayers and confess them into our lives. I believe every believer should memorize as many of these prayers as possible and pray them for themselves and others regularly. As a believer prays and confesses them two things happen.

- 1) As that these prayers are prayed over and over again, revelation of the Truth in them will begin to drop into your heart and,
- 2) As a result of that revelation, your life will begin to be transformed into the very image and the intent of those prayers.

I strongly believe that our prayer life would be radically transformed if these prayers were taken seriously as a model for our prayers. Hence, in this series, we will study the prayers of apostle Paul to his disciples, their meaning, and their implications for the church today. Let's start with the most popular one, which is the first prayer to the Ephesian church.

Ephesians 1:15-21 “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 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, 18 the eyes of your understanding 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, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

“The spirit of wisdom and revelation” in God’s knowledge

- *Ephesians 1:17* “...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”
- What is the spirit of wisdom and revelation?

“That the eyes of your understanding will be enlightened” to know

- the hope of His calling
- what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
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What is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe?

- *Ephesians 1:19-21* “according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”