

Prayer

Part 3

^d *Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.* ² *And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith.* ³ *But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.* ⁴ *We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command.* ⁵ *May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.”* (2Thessalonians 3:1-5)

Paul encouraged the church in Thessalonica to pray for him and for the work of God to be prosper. He asked them to pray and prayer can do to us all the following:

1- The rapid spread of God's message: Prayer can activate and initiate a rapid evangelism. God through the prayer of the church will open new doors for the church to evangelize and to reach new people, and new areas, nations and languages with the gospel of Jesus.

2- That the message of the Lord shall be honoured: Prayer not only open new doors for evangelism but as well as will lead us to people who honour and respect and fear the word of God and the message that the Lord is sending to them.

3- Protection and deliverance: *“And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith.”* Prayer is a very powerful tool to protect and shield those who serve God and deliver them from all the evil schemes of the devil that might use certain evil people to hinder the work of God.

4- Strength: *“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”* Prayer will give strength. And strength is a very important factor in God's service. Many times the attack of the devil is manifested in our lives as weaknesses to achieve God's will and work. Many times the Devil will try to attack us and persecute us by sending to us bad news, threats and intimidation to make us afraid and stop doing God's work. The threat of Satan will make us feel weak or sickly and that might be a reason to hinder or stop the work of God. Prayer is important for every worker who is engaged in God's service because prayer increases our faith and that will help us to combat fear, and when fear is gone then discouragement is no more, then we found ourselves have the strength and the courage to continue to do God's work and will.

5- Continuity in obeying the instructions: *“We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command.”* Paul was praying for the church and that is why he got the confidence that the church is doing well and everyone not only is doing well but they will continue to do the instructions they received from God through Paul.

6- Perseverance: *“May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.”* Prayer has great help for the work of God to continue. Our prayers prompt our coworker to be filled with Christ love to persevere in times of trials and hardship to continue in doing God's work. It is easy to serve God when everything is available and there is no problem. But when there are trials and troubles God's service will be more difficult to achieve and here is the need for prayer.

⁹ *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.* ¹⁰ *And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may*

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, and joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” (Colossians 1:9-12)

The Church in Colossi were under the care of Epaphras who came and report to Paul the incorrect teaching and ways of life that some of the church member are adopting, asking help from Paul to advice him what to do. Paul gave the advice to Epaphras and he sent to the church a teaching letter and recommended to them the hard work of their leader. But Paul prayed for the church when he heard what is going on in their lives. In Paul prayer we can notice and observe the following points:

1- They never stop praying for them: Prayer should continue until there will be fruit and evidence of correction in the peoples' lives.

2- They prayed and asked God to fill them with the knowledge of God's will: Many they continue to do wrong because they are unaware of God's will in their lives. Those who do their own we need to pray for them that God will make His ways and His will clear to them. *“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”* We need to pray that God shall fill those people with His spiritual wisdom and understanding. Because such kind of people they have their own earthly, fleshly and devilish wisdom but not the wisdom of God.

3- They prayed for them that they will live a life worthy of the Lord's calling: Paul informed the church that they are praying for them in this way and in such direction that all of them will live their lives pleasant to the Lord. *Ephesians 5:10* says *“and find out what pleases the Lord.”* The people needs our prayer before they will find out what pleases the Lord. For them to live a life that is worthy to God's calling they need our prayers, and through our prayer to them they can achieved the following things:

- A- Bearing fruit in every good work:** To get involve in serving the Lord and doing His work.
- B- Growing in the knowledge of God:** To go deep into His word and understand well from the Scripture the will of God and grasp the sound teaching.
- C- To be strengthen and have great endurance and patience:** To stand firm in faith and not compromise while facing hardships and troubles.
- D- Joyfully giving thanks to God the Father:** And that is to reflect their faithfulness to God who called them and gave them inheritance among the saints.

Paul also wrote in the letter the following: *“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”* (Colossians 4:12) What paul mentioned here that Epaphras their leader was praying for them and from his prayer we can grasp the following point to apply in our lives of prayer praying for others: A- Wrestling for them always in prayer: earnest and sincere prayer is needed for people before they are correct and straightened by God. B- Praying for the people to stand firm and not compromise. C- Praying for the people to be maturing and resting assured with God's word and His promises that they will fully trust God; that as they will obey Him and apply His word, He will fulfill to them all what He had promised.

My Prayer: *Father God thank you for your word that teaches me how to pray and how to be more effective in my life of prayer. Lord give me more insight how to pray and give me perseverance to pray earnestly and have more faith in you that you will do great things in the life of the people that I am praying for. That they will be fruitful, strengthened and mature, and that you will open more doors for your word to be preached and the message to be honoured in the life of those new people that you will enable us to reach. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*