

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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12 Effective Prayer Points

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Introduction

We have all been in “prayer meetings” where the emphasis was on praying. However, think a moment about the types of prayers that were offered. How many of the prayer requests were for health issues? How many were about financial problems or family problems? And the one that always amazes me, how many were “unspoken requests” for prayer? Do the prayer meetings that you have attended seem to be in any way related to the prayer meetings of the Church in the book of Acts? If your experience has been like mine then very little of our modern prayer times reflect any of the issues of the early Church's prayer times.

I am not saying that the issues that we pray about are not real problems, nor am I saying that we shouldn't pray about them. I am saying that our focus, our viewpoint about prayer may need to be adjusted in order to be more effective. We need to look toward the Scriptures and how the early believers prayed.

Background

Jesus, as our example, by His words and actions taught us **how to pray**. Paul, as our example, by his words and actions taught us **what to pray**. [For more on this see [“Teach Us To Pray”](#) on the *website*.] We have been repeatedly told that prayer is simply “talking to God”. While there is some truth to that and prayer is simple but it is far more than just talking to God.

The way we pray and what we pray about changes as we mature in the Lord. Spiritual babies are no different than natural babies. Their primary concern is their own situation, which focuses on food, security and comfort. As the child grows their awareness expands and others' needs are also considered; their world view broadens.

As we grow up spiritually, as we mature in the Lord our spiritual view of the purposes of God broadens. We become aware that we are not just members of the Household of God, but we are also part of the society of God, citizens of His Kingdom. This changes the content of our prayers.

Paul's Prayers

In spite of Paul's persecutions, problems, and other dire circumstances, we don't have any record of his prayers regarding his own provision, security, or comfort. Instead, his prayers were always about others and their need to receive of the grace, purpose, and provision already given by the Lord.

Eph 1:15-19 NASB

- (15) For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints,
- (16) do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;
- (17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
- (18) *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will 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 surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

From these verses in Ephesians we see the first four prayer points as we hold others before the Lord:

1. wisdom and revelation
2. hope and certainty
3. personal value to God
4. His power towards us

Later on in Ephesians Paul adds three more prayer points.

Eph 3:14-19 NASB

- (14) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
- (15) from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,
- (16) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,
- (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- (18) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
- (19) and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

These three prayer points for the Ephesians are

1. inner government

2. love
3. fullness

We find two more of Paul's prayer points in his letter to the Philippians.

Php 1:9-10 NASB

- (9) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,
- (10) so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

For the Philippians Paul was praying for their

1. discernment
2. sincerity and blamelessness

Now we go to Colossians for the last three of our 12 prayer points.

Col 1:9-12 NASB

- (9) For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- (10) so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- (11) strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously
- (12) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

The last three prayer points are

1. understanding God's will
2. fruitfulness and increase in the knowledge of God
3. enabling grace leading to patience, steadfastness, and joyful thanks

Applied to Us

As you can see from the Scriptures above that the things that Paul prayed for the Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians were very different than the things that we pray for in our prayer meetings. In the Scriptures above there are many "so thats" listed. This means that Paul expected some things to be produced in them as his prayers were answered by God.

Each of these prayer points works toward the release into the lives of people things that we might call "Kingdom Commodities." These cannot be taught entirely by man, but are born of the Holy Spirit. They come in response to the kind of praying we are learning. They are essential for those who will stand in the time of trouble and who will function with Christ in His Kingdom.

In the natural there are three spheres of concern for us: 1) me and mine, 2) us and ours, and 3) everyone else. Once we have me and mine and us and ours covered, we are not too concerned about everyone else. In the spiritual realm, we grow from sphere to sphere: 1) my family, 2) my assembly of believers, and 3) the Kingdom of God. As this happens our perspective changes and our interaction with the Lord changes with it and so should our prayers.

I challenge you to carefully consider the prayers of Paul in this Present Truth Teaching Letter and let the Holy Spirit direct you in applying your new understanding to your prayers. In your next prayer meeting steer the focus toward these types of prayer points. See if it will revolutionize your prayer time together.

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