

Hearing the Word of God

Today's Message

“Praying Like Paul”

Ephesians 3:14-21

Luke Gilkerson

Praying Like Paul

“For me it’s not making an honest effort to make time to pray. I fill up my time with things that are a waste of that time. I also struggle with bringing the same thing to God each time, I think it’s a pride thing, that I can’t believe I have to ask forgiveness and help with this thing again.”

“Keeping my focus on
praying and not being
distracted by other things
I need to do next.”

“It is trying to find time with all the distractions around me. Maybe I have a little adult ADD but I often find it hard to focus.”

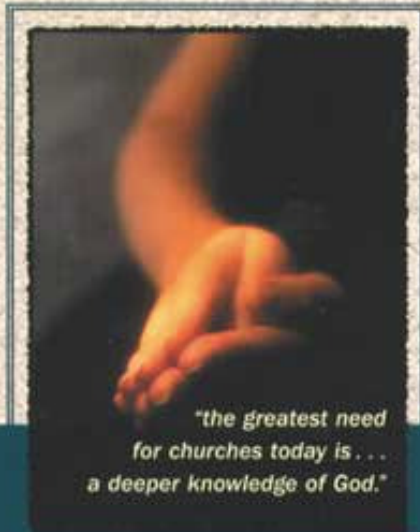
“Finding time to shut my mind off to all the things happening in my life. Even though I find the time my mind doesn’t want to do what I tell it to.”

“I find it difficult to really comprehend who I am praying to. I know that I am a child of God and that He cares about me but I find it hard to actually feel that I am in His presence through my prayer.”

“I have always been terrible at praying. I forget. My mind wanders. I fall asleep. I don’t pray enough. I don’t understand what prayer is or what prayer does. If prayer were school...I would flunk praying. But prayer isn’t school. It is mystery. Maybe the mystery is...Jesus loves terrible prayers. Maybe...when I can’t think of anything to say, He says what I can’t say. When I talk too much, He cherishes my too-many words. When I fall asleep, He holds me in his lap and caresses my weary soul. When I am overwhelmed with guilt at my inconsistent, inadequate praying He whispers, ‘Your name is always on my lips.’ I am filled with gratitude, my soul overflows with thankfulness and I...I find myself saying over and over again, ‘Thank You.’ Praying the mystery.”

- Michael Yaconelli.

A CALL TO SPIRITUAL REFORMATION



*"the greatest need
for churches today is . . .
a deeper knowledge of God."*

PRIORITIES FROM PAUL
AND HIS PRAYERS

D. A. C A R S O N

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(Ephesians 3:14-21)

1. Paul has a Motivation to Pray

“For this reason” (3:14)

2. Paul Prays with an Ultimate Concern in Mind

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” (3:17)

“that you may be filled with
all the fullness of God.” (3:19)

3. Paul Prays for Power to Accomplish this End

“that according to the riches of his
glory he may grant you to be
strengthened with power through his
Spirit in your inner being, so that
Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith.” (3:16-17)

“that you...may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (3:17-19)

4. Paul Prays for Power to Know Christ's Love

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish... “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:25-27,31-32)

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (3:20-21)