

Prayers That Make a Difference

Ephesians 1:15-21

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Philippians 1:3-6; 9-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:19-20

¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

1. What were Paul's prayers focused on as he prayed for people? What difference do you think his prayers made in their lives and in Paul himself?
2. **NOTE:** Paul told people that he was praying this way about them. What difference do you think that made in their relationships?
3. What did he ask people to pray for him about? What difference do you think that made in his life?
4. What difference would it make if we:
 - prayed like this and believed it would make a difference?
 - told people we were praying for them like this?
 - asked people to pray for us like this and believed it would make a difference?

Incorporate the thoughts and words of these prayers into your prayers for others and in your conversations with them, and see what difference it makes – in your own life, in the lives of others, and in your relationships.

Lord, teach us to pray. (Luke 11:1)

John Sullivan
March 2012