

THE PRAYERS OF PAUL

Study Questions Week 3

Colossians 1:3-12

1. Honestly reflect on your current prayer habits. For whom of what do you regularly petition or thank God?

2. Did anything surprise or challenge you about how Paul prays in Colossians 1:3-8? Explain.

3. What praying do you do for believers you have never met before? How can you improve in this area?

4. Do you find yourself bored with prayer whenever things are going well – when there is no crisis? What are some things that you have learned that you might pray about in those times?

5. Look up these verses about the will of God. What does each say about the will of God? Do you agree or disagree with what these say?
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

 - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:3

 - c. 1 Timothy 2:4

 - d. Romans 12:1-2

 - e. Ephesians 5:17-18

 - f. 1 Peter 2:13-15

 - g. 1 Peter 3:17, 4:19

h. Hebrews 10:36

6. Have you ever found an answer to your prayer of “What do you want me to do God?” in the Bible? Share an example(s).

7. We are to walk worthy of our calling. What specific things in your own life should you be praying about?

8. Paul gave four typical characteristics of a life pleasing to the Lord. Honestly evaluate your life in relation to each and rate the pleasing-ness of your walk.
 - a. Christians bear fruit in every good work

 - b. Christians grow in the knowledge of God

 - c. Christians are strengthened so as to display great patience and longsuffering.
(Remember, patience looks more at enduring difficult circumstances, while longsuffering looks at enduring difficult people.)

 - d. Christians joyfully give thanks to the Father

9. What specific trial or difficulty have you recently faced? What did you pray for during that time? Do you typically pray for deliverance from trials for you and loved ones or for divine empowerment for endurance and patience through challenging times?

10. For extra credit, read and assess your faith according to “The Character of Genuine Saving Faith.” If you find list 2 is not true of your life, contact someone more spiritually mature and talk about it.