



“Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus: Prayerful Life”

Introduction: “The Apostle Paul is a great hero of prayer, second only to Jesus Christ.” – Alvin Vanderriend

Colossians 1:9-14 – “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

A Prisoner’s Prayer of Intercession (vv. 3-8)

Paul prayed when times were hard.

Paul prayed for others without ceasing.

Colossians 1:3 – “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you”

Romans 1:9-10a – “For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers...”

2 Timothy 1:3 – “I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “pray without ceasing...”

Not just ~~P.U.S.H.~~ but rather K.O.P.

Paul prayed for the praise report.

Colossians 1:4, 7b-8 – “since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints...
7 ...from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.”

A Prayerful Life is Devoted to God’s Will (vv. 9-10)

Colossians 1:9 – “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding”

Colossians 1:10 – “so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

A Prayerful Life is Dependent on God's Power (v. 11)

Colossians 1:11 – “being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy”

A Prayerful Life is Dedicated to Giving Thanks for God's Son (vv. 12-14)

Colossians 1:12 – “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

Colossians 1:13-14 – “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Conclusion: A prayerful life should mean a life that is FULL of prayer.

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

We are called to be devoted to a Biblical life (*the apostles' teaching*), a Church life (*the fellowship*), *the breaking of bread*, and a Prayerful life (*the prayers*).

God commands the church's devotion because He desires His people to enjoy the abundant life of Jesus by experiencing Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What most impresses you about Paul's prayer life?
2. What elements of a “Prayerful Life” do you most need to incorporate into your own life of prayer?
3. Does praying for others ever bore you? Is it possible that you don't love them as you should? If so, confess.
4. Read the following additional passages and consider their implications for a prayer full life: 1 Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 1:16; 3:14; Philippians 1:3-8; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 3:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 11; Philemon 4.