

**Col 1:3** We **give thanks** to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**

**Col 1:9** 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,

Ch 1:3-12 is a report about Timothy & Paul's prayer for the believer's in Colossian church. **Epaphras**, a student of Paul had taken the gospel to Colossae and many were saved, starting the church. When he heard about Paul's incarceration he apparently went to support him & to give him the good news about the new believers. Paul writes and tells them that he is grateful for them and tells them what he is asking the Lord to do.

Vs 3 – **proseuchomai** - general word for speaking with GF about day to day life in the A/C

Vs 9 – uses the same word again but adds **aiteo**

Trench: one in an inferior position seeks a gift from one in a superior position

Thayer: αἰτέω signifies to ask for something to **be given, a gift as opposed to an exhortation to perform an action (erotao)** which is a more conversational request between equals.

- **Proseuchomai** Vs 3,9 – general prayer – request for overall well being of the subject
- **Aiteo** – specific requests from a servant to the Master

**Col 1:9** 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,** <sup>10</sup> **so that you may 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;** <sup>11</sup> **strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously** <sup>12</sup> **giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

- Spiritual growth unto maturity producing pleasing fruit for the Lord
- Notice he doesn't ask for health, wealth or something to make life easier for them
- He asks Lord to emphasize their need for growth & service by what He sends & allows.

## Doctrine of Prayer

### Intro:

Any growing, developing relationship requires communication. God's primary goals for us is that we grow into an intimate relationship with Him. When the (CWL) is rightly lived, there is consistent, sometimes constant communication between God-the believer, believers-believers, with nothing that can replace prayer and/or fellowship.

God speaks to us through the teaching of His word, building up the NM belief system. As we learn to listen, He speaks to our soul/spirit by the Holy Spirit who uses the verbal/visual systems of our inner dialogue (Rom 8:16).

He allows us to speak directly with Him by simply speaking to Him as He abides within our bodies, making requests & commenting about issues. Prayer is the divinely designed communication system between the Royal Family of God (RFG) and God (Heb 4:16)

Prayer is the practice of the presence of God. It is the place where pride is abandoned, hope is lifted, and supplication is made. Prayer is the place of admitting our need, of adopting humility, and claiming dependence upon God. Prayer is the needful practice of the Christian. Prayer is the exercise of faith and hope. Prayer is the privilege of touching the heart of the Father through the Son of God, Jesus our Lord. **Matt Slick**

1. **Definition:** A Christian communicating & conversing with God from our position in Christ by the power of GHS. Prayer is talking to GF.

- It can be a respectful formality or a relaxed informality to access your dad's counsel.
- Prayer can be focused on your relationship with Him through praise, thanksgiving, humility, need or can be requests for His help.

## 2. **Foundational Principles**

a. **Prayer is for believers only – members of the RFG** **Gal 3:26** *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.* **John 1:12** *But as many that received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*

- Prior to salvation, every member of the human race is spiritually dead & totally cut off from the life of God – Eph 2:1-3, 4:18; Col 1:21 – alienated from the life of God.
- The first & only prayer God hears from a lost person is the prayer expressing faith in the gospel.
- The world and even the church often encourage unbelievers to pray – human good
- Only those adopted into the RFG have the right to address God as “ABBA” daddy - Rom 8:15
- Mystery – **musterion** – secret fraternities where only insiders were allowed to know the private, secret, doctrines & concepts of the organization. Mk 4:11, Eph 3:3-9, Col 1:26

b. **Aspects - Words for prayer**, each with a different emphasis

**Euchomai** – wish, desire; **proseuchomai** – express desire face/face; **deomai** – to beg, beseech emphasizing need; **aiteo** – ask a superior position for a favor cp. **erotao** – request of equals

c. **Forms of Prayer:** **Adoration** Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord & God, to receive glory and honor and power; Eph 1:3; expressions of **worship** Psm 96:1-3; **thanksgiving** Col 1:3 **intercession** for others – Ab for Lot; **requests** for self Mt 26; **complaint** Psm 142:2; **Imprecatory** – Psm 109; **Meditation** Psm 119:97

## d. **Protocols of Prayer**

- Addressed to God-Father – Mt 6:9, Eph 3:14, 5:20
- In the name of the Son – Jn 14:13,14; 16:23
- In power of the Spirit – Eph 6:18

- God does not require that we have vast, in-depth knowledge of Him & His plan to have a relationship with Him and/or pray – Heb 11:6 – must believe that He exists & that He rewards those who seek Him.
- Knowledge of & submission to God's word enhances & increases our capacity for appreciation & gratitude in our relationship with God; to endure His purification process (Jam 1:2-4), to grow through adversity & become a fully committed servant to Christ 2Cor 10:5.

e. **Fourfold Breakdown** – Confession of sin 1Jn 1:9; Thanksgiving 1Thes 5:18; Intercession Eph 6:18; Petition – Eph 6:18

### **Acts Method**

Adoration: Give God praise and honor for who he is as Lord over all.

Confession: Honestly deal with the sin in your prayer life.

Thanksgiving: Verbalize what you're grateful for in your life and in the world around you.

Supplication: Pray for the needs of others and yourself

f. Protocol in prayer is not intended to become a ritual without the reality of genuine love and surrender as we relate to God – Church Age, God all but abandoned ritual for the reality of being filled with the beliefs and thinking of Christ, transforming us into His image.

g. Public Prayer: Courtesy suggests that public prayer be brief and to the point while discretion asks that we keep private matters private.