



Discussion Questions for Fellowship Groups

PRAYERS OF PAUL | JANUARY 6, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Do you believe prayer matters? That prayer makes some type of difference? As a church, we believe that God hears us when we pray, and that prayer actually makes a profound difference, both in our own personal life, and also in the world around us. Over the next four weeks, we will look at four powerful prayers of Paul and discover timeless truths about hope, love, righteousness, and God's will.

SCRIPTURE

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸I pray 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 His holy people, ¹⁹and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 1:15-19a

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Share with your group how you have seen prayer make a difference in your life.
2. Read Ephesians 1:15-19a. Paul mentions hearing about what two characteristics of the Ephesians Christians? Do you notice these things? If so, does it stir your heart to prayer?
3. Why do you think Paul was so appreciative of the faith of the Ephesians?
4. What word/phrase emphasizes the fact that this was not just a one-time prayer Paul prayed?
5. What do you think these four requests of Paul mean?
 - “give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation”
 - “that you may know Him better”
 - “that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened”
 - “that you may know the hope to which He has called you”

6. Aaron mentioned the difference between “know” (gnosis*) and “know” (epignosis**). Paul uses the word “epignosis” in verse 18. How can you “know” (epignosis) God more?

7. Do you believe all prayer should be for spiritual things? Why or why not? (See Philippians 4:6.)

8. How often do you pray for health issues, protection, finances, etc.? How often do you pray that you or others may know God better?

9. Read Psalm 2:8. God is not short on power; we are short on faith to access His power. How will you access more of His power this year?

*gnosis = to have cognitive knowledge
 **epignosis = to have experiential knowledge

APPLICATION

Pick up the journal at church and write it in daily.

Text 21PRAY to 797979 to sign up for daily prayer encouragements from Fellowship. As the texts arrive, spend time meditating on the words and Scripture that have been sent.

Pray this for yourself and at least one other person this week:

- 1) that God would give you/them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to know Him better;
- 2) that the eyes of your/their heart would be enlightened;
- 3) that you/they would know the hope of His calling;
- 4) that you/they would know the riches of His glorious inheritance; and
- 5) that you/they would know His incomparable great power for those who believe.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Ephesians 1:18 speaks of the “hope to which He has called you”. When you think of the things you hope for, what are they?

- According to commentaries, “the word ‘Hope’ (elpis) expresses a desire of some good with the expectation of obtaining it. Hope in Scripture is the absolute certainty of future good. Not ‘I hope so’ but strong confidence that God is going to do good to us in future. It is an expectation or confidence.” Read the following verses and write what you learn about our “hope”.

Colossians 1:27 _____

1 Timothy 1:1 _____

Titus 2:11-14 _____

1 Peter 1:3 _____

- Read Ephesians 1:3-14 and 2:6-7. List all of the things that could be considered “the riches of His glorious inheritance”.