

Pray for Me

Opener: Why do we need to be reminded to pray?

Scripture: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. ²¹Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. ²²I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you. ²³Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. Ephesians 6:18-24

Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6

Discussion Questions

1. Prayer is emphasized throughout Ephesians and now Paul follows his description of spiritual armor by emphasizing it again. But if we already have the armor of God, why would we need to pray, and what does it mean to pray in the Spirit? Ephesians 6:18
2. All kinds of prayers on all occasions for all believers—what are some examples of prayers that fit that criteria? How can we know whether to keep on praying or to conclude that God's answer is "no"? Ephesians 6:18; I Thessalonians 5:16-18
3. Why would Paul ask for prayer to help him fearlessly share the gospel? Have you ever been afraid or reticent to share the gospel? Why? Are there times we shouldn't share the gospel? If so, how can you tell when not to? Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 6:19-20
4. Paul sent Tychicus to let the Ephesians know how he was doing and to encourage them. We never hear about Tychicus doing anything extraordinary, or being an especially gifted leader, but what is he commended for? How did that define his ministry to and with Paul? How can we provide similar support for those who are in ministry? Ephesians 6:21-22
5. Paul closes his letter to the Ephesians by expressing his desires for them: peace, love with faith, and grace for all who love Jesus with an undying love. How do those things express God's favor and character to us and through us? Ephesians 6:23-24
6. What's been the most interesting or convicting takeaway from Ephesians for you?

Wrap Up: The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics went to scientists for their work on entanglement, a phenomenon that occurs when two or more objects are connected in a way that binds them in a single system, even when they are far apart. So knowing something about one particle automatically tells you something about its companion. It's been compared to a dance in which you see one dancer doing a spin turn, and you automatically know the other dancer is also doing a spin turn. Doesn't that remind you of the Trinity? The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are always working together in a single system even when they are far apart. What's astonishing is that through the Holy Spirit and prayer we become entangled with the Trinity! Prayer is not some foolish blind religious act that has some unknown effect. Prayer is communion with God so that His will is done on earth even as it is in heaven. That's entanglement at its best—so pray!