

How to Pray for Your Family (Part 1)

Opener: What's something about our church that you're thankful for?

Scripture: For 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. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:15-23

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:17-18

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:12

Discussion Questions

1. In Ephesians 1:15-23 Paul described the prayers he prayed for the church in Ephesus in a way that we can apply to prayers for family and other believers. What motivated him to pray for them? Note that he said he was thankful for them. What are you thankful for when you pray for family and others?
2. He then asked God to give them a Spirit of wisdom and revelation. What is that? How does James 3:17-18 describe the wisdom available to us? From that description and what Paul wrote, what's the connection between wisdom, understanding and a close relationship with the Lord? Ephesians 1:17
3. In verses 18-19 he listed three things he prayed for them to know: (i) the hope they were called to, (ii) the riches of their inheritance, and (iii) His incomparably great power. Why do you think he asked for those things? How does understanding them deepen our relationship with God?
4. Paul seems to shift topics in the middle of verse 19. Why does he shift and what does he shift to? What does being seated at God's right hand signify?
5. In vs. 23 we're told that Jesus fills everything in every way. What does that mean? How does who Jesus is, what He did for us, and where He is now define the church? Ephesians 1:23
6. 1 Timothy 6:12 tells us to, "Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." How do we take hold of eternal life now in a way that reflects what Paul prayed for in Ephesians 1?
7. Paul's prayer encouraged the Ephesians. How can we encourage family members and other believers to grow in Christ? How can we encourage others to really know Christ, not just know about Him?

Wrap Up: We can pray and ask God about anything—including the things Paul lists in Ephesians 1. And we can pray for anybody, including and starting with our family. Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort. It should be part of our regular routine to seek God. If you aren't used to praying, it's simple. Talk to God. Be honest about where you are, and admit you need Him. Ask Him to be your Lord, and He will reveal Himself to you and give you everything you need to grow in Him.