

I'll Pray for You

Colossians 1:9-14 – Page 1832

Taking it Home:

1. Are you praying as Paul prayed? What is God challenging you to change in how you pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ?

“I’ll pray for you” isn’t a cliché if we _____
for that person.

We’re to pray...

1. For God to _____ [Eph. 6:18; James 5:14]

2. That we would _____ [10; Eph. 1:17]

3. For God to fill us with all _____ and _____ [9]

4. That we are _____ to the Lord. [10]

5. That we _____ in every _____ [10]

6. For great _____ and _____ [11]

7. We _____ in _____ [11-14]

Prayer Concerns:

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What is at the top of your prayer list right now?

Digging Deeper:

Read Colossians 1:1-14

1. It's estimated that 80 to 90 percent of our petitions ask God to meet physical and temporal needs [good health, recovery from illness, safety on the road, a good job, financial provision, etc.]. It's right for us to offer such prayers. But how much do you guess Paul focused on these kinds of requests?
2. One of the remarkable things about Paul's prayers for the Colossians is that he had never met them personally. How much of our prayers revolve around our own families, church, and relatively small circle of friends? What responsibility—and privilege—do we have to pray for believers we do not know?
3. In verse 10, Paul prays the Colossian Christians will grow in their knowledge of God. In Ephesians 1:17, he prays for the believers to know God better. Why is this one of the greatest prayers we can offer for one another?
4. In addition to knowing God better, Paul asks God to fill us with "*the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding*" [9]. In praying for us to know God's will, Paul isn't primarily asking God to reveal His plans for us [what house to buy, job to accept, etc.]. Read Psalm 143:10, Romans 12:2, and Ephesians 5:15-17. What is God's *overarching* will for our lives? How does prayer help us both *know* and *do* His will?
5. We are to pray that we might lead lives fully pleasing to the Lord. To reach that end, what specific things should we be praying for in our own lives and the lives of other believers?
6. What are we to pray when we and our fellow believers are experiencing troubles, trials, and challenges of many kinds? On the one hand, we're to pray for deliverance. But, on the other, we're to pray God strengthens us by His power so that "*we may have great endurance and patience*" [11]. How can we pray more effectively and lovingly for our brothers and sisters experiencing challenging times?
7. Paul prays that we will joyfully give thanks to God the Father. Why? What reasons do we have for always rejoicing in the Lord? Reread verses 10-14. Without naming names, are you concerned about a brother or sister in Christ who lacks the joy of the Lord? How can you pray for him or her?