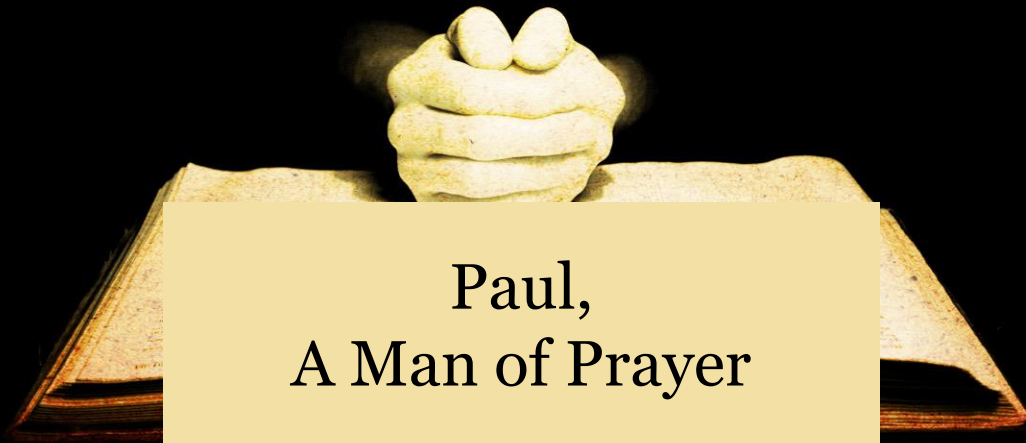


# Communicating with God

## A study of prayer and Bible study



Paul,  
A Man of Prayer

# A study of prayer!



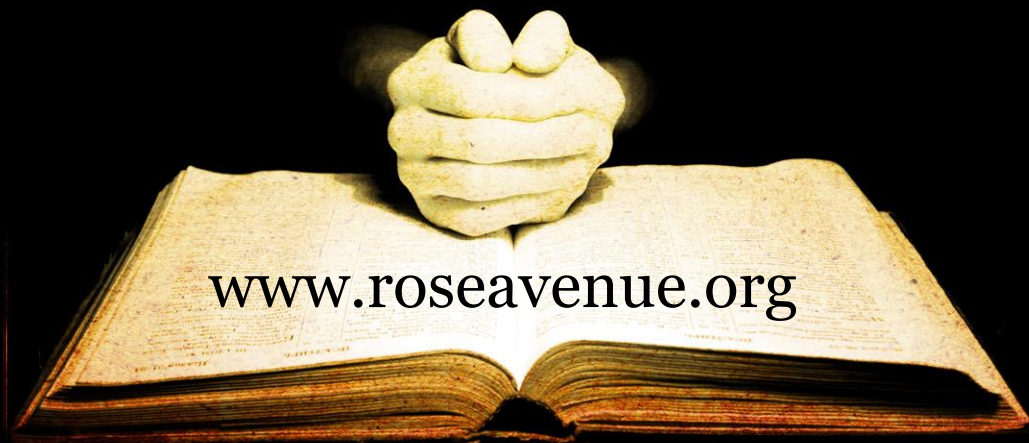
- Last week we began to examine some Biblical examples of prayer.
- We noted prayer in the life of Jesus and its significance to us. IF Jesus, the Son of God, needed to pray as much as He did, what does that say about us?
- Today, let us examine the life of Paul.



# Prayer (8)

## Paul, a man of prayer

### **1 Corinthians 11:1**



[www.roseavenue.org](http://www.roseavenue.org)

Communicating with God:  
A study of Prayer & Bible Study  
**Our 2024 Theme**



# Prayer in the life of Paul

- We begin by noting Paul's background.
- He was raised a Pharisee –  
**Philippians 3:5-6**  
**Acts 22:3** – a devout Jew, zealous for God  
**Acts 23:2** – He had lived, “in all good conscience before God until this day.”
- As “keepers of the law”, Pharisees would have regularly prayed  
**Cf. Luke 18:10-11,**  
**Matthew 6:5ff, 23:14**





# Prayer in the life of Paul

- We begin by noting Paul's background.
- When Paul was struck blind and confronted with his rejection of Jesus – we find him praying and fasting for 3 days – **Acts 9:9-11**

Thus, prayer was ALWAYS likely important to him

(NOTE: The OT gives us many examples of faithful Jews praying to God)





# Prayer in the life of Paul

- **Acts 22:12, 17**, recounting his conversion, afterward he goes to Jerusalem where we find him praying to God in the temple when the Lord called him to leave and go to the Gentiles.  
Paul emphasized how his prayers led to his “calling” to the Gentiles.
- **Acts 13:3**, As Paul and Barnabas are being sent to preach the brethren prayed before they “laid hands on them”.  
AGAIN, as you begin a serious task, don't forget to pray



## Prayer in the life of Paul

- **Acts 14:23**, on their first preaching tour, they return to previously established churches to appoint elders. They prayed and commended them to the Lord

Another serious undertaking. As we conduct the affairs of the church (and leadership), don't forget to pray.





# Prayer in the life of Paul

- **Acts 16:13**, Paul and Silas find Jewish women praying and teach them.  
Prayer is a good indicator one is seeking the Lord. WHERE God's people are, there will be prayers
- **Acts 16:25**, still in Philippi, beaten and in prison. Paul and Silas are praying and singing.  
Even after oppression don't forget to pray





## Prayer in the life of Paul

- **Acts 20:36**, concluding his 3<sup>rd</sup> preaching tour, he meets with the elders of Ephesus, and they pray  
Pray when you are going to be separated for awhile. Pray as you begin your travels (and throughout)
- **Acts 21:5**, in Tyre, headed toward Jerusalem, again, “we knelt down and prayed.”



## Prayer in the life of Paul

- **Acts 27:29**, headed toward Rome and facing disaster on a ship, they “prayed for day to come”  
When in distress, don't forget to pray.
- **Acts 28:8**, on Malta, as Paul heals the father of Publius. He prayed  
Paul's miraculous acts were from God.  
He appealed to and acknowledged God.





# Prayer in the life of Paul

- Throughout Acts, we can see how important prayer was to Paul
- BUT, we also see how important prayer was AND how much he prayed in His letters.
- Most of Paul's letters mention or allude to prayer: his, theirs and instruction



## Prayer in the life of Paul

- **Romans 1:8-10**, He expressed thankfulness to God for them and that he might have opportunity to come to them  
Continually you will find Paul thanking God for his brethren! Also for opportunities.
- **Romans 10:1**, He prayed for his brethren, Israel  
Paul prayed for the lost, even his enemies





# Prayer in the life of Paul

- **1 Corinthians 1:4**, Paul's continued prayers and thanksgiving, for God's grace  
As we consider what to pray for, consider God's blessing toward others
- **1 Corinthians 16:23**, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."  
Many of Paul's concluding remarks are written as a prayer (like many psalms)



## Prayer in the life of Paul

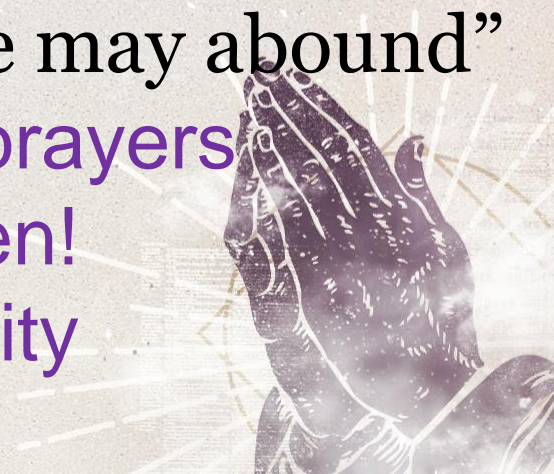
- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**, Paul pleaded with the Lord concerning his “thorn in the flesh”.  
Make requests, but be ready to accept God’s answer, even if it is ‘no’.
- **2 Corinthians 13:9**, “...that you may be complete  
Prayer for the spiritual welfare of others





# Prayer in the life of Paul

- **Ephesians 1:16**, Paul (again) made mention of them in his prayers  
See previous point!
- **Philippians 1:4, 9**, “Always in every prayer of mine...” “This I pray, that your love may abound”  
Included in Paul’s “laundry list” of prayers  
NOTE how he prays for them often!  
More prayers for spiritual prosperity



# Prayer in the life of Paul

- **Colossians 1:3, 9**, Giving thanks for them always, “do not cease to pray for you...”  
See previous point!
- **1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3:10**, “Thanks for you”, “night and day...”  
More people he prays for  
Prayers to see them again





# Prayer in the life of Paul

- **1 Thessalonians 2:13**, Thanking God without ceasing, for their receptiveness to the truth  
Do we pray for brethren when they obey the gospel (or return to Him)?
- **2 Thessalonians 1:11**, Prayers always that they be counted worthy...  
For their spiritual well being – that what is said and done is right with God



# Prayer in the life of Paul

- **2 Timothy 1:3**, Remembering and thanking God for Timothy night and day
- **Philemon 4**, Praying for Philemon personally  
We have seen Paul praying for churches AND individuals





# Paul's Teaching About Prayer

- **Romans 8:26**, We do not know what we should pray for – the Spirit helps  
Paul reminds these brethren that prayer works and reaches God
- **Romans 12:12**, continue steadfastly in prayer  
Paul preached what he practiced.



# Paul's Teaching About Prayer

- **Romans 15:30-33**, He requested that others pray for him to be delivered from unreasonable men. Continually Paul requested prayers – **Philippians 1:19, Colossians 4:3, 1 Thess. 5:25, etc.**  
We need others praying for us, and when needed ask others to pray for you
- **1 Corinthians 7:5**, husbands and wives need to spend time private in prayer  
A strong marriage includes prayers





# Paul's Teaching About Prayer

- **1 Corinthians 11 & 14**, in the church, we pray. It is an act of worship
- **2 Corinthian 1:11**, in distress Paul commended these brethren for praying for him  
Again, we need to be praying for each other



## Paul's Teaching About Prayer

- **2 Corinthians 9:13-14**, helping the needy could result in them praying for you.  
Prayer is one thing we CAN do for others, even if we cannot do anything else.
- **Ephesians 6:18**, praying always, with all prayer and supplication  
We need to pray continually and as part of our spiritual armor





# Paul's Teaching About Prayer

- **Philippians 4:6-7**, be anxious for nothing...  
pray  
When we are burdened, we need to pause and pray, and learn to trust God as we pray.
- **Colossians 4:2**, Continue earnestly in prayer  
**1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**, Pray without ceasing, giving thanks  
We need to pray continually



# Paul's Teaching About Prayer

- **Colossians 4:12**, Epaphras was praying for them  
Paul recognized that other pray and commended them for that
- **1 Timothy 2:1-2, 8**, Paul's desire that men pray everywhere...  
We need to be praying continually and for others including our leaders





# Paul's Teaching About Prayer

- **1 Timothy 4:4**, everything God has given us (to eat) is to be received with thanksgiving  
Be grateful for all that we have received
- **1 Timothy 5:5**, Godly, worthy widows continue in prayers along with other conduct  
Prayer is a virtue worthy of recognition



## Paul's Prayers – Concluding thoughts

- **1 Corinthians 11:1**, we return to the beginning. In what way do we imitate Paul?  
As he imitated Christ.
- The faithfulness of Paul is unparalleled in the New Testament. Consider all he gave up, how he worked and suffered for the cause of Christ. As we have seen, PRAYER was a part of his solution.





## Paul's Prayers – Concluding thoughts

- **1 Corinthians 16:1**, “Imitate me.” Paul encourages regular prayer with thanksgiving.
- He prayed for many things – churches, brethren, his worldly kinsmen, leaders, the furtherance of the gospel and even his enemies.





# Paul's Prayers – Concluding thoughts

- From Preceptor Magazine (lesson on Paul and Prayer by Louis J. Sharp)
- Paul prayed: Positively, Perpetually, in Praise, Publicly, Privately & Persistently; Powerfully, Patiently, Pertinently (relevant);  
He prayed for Progress, Peace, Perfection;  
He prayed in Prosperity, Poverty, Prison, Perplexity, and facing Problems.  
He prayed Purposefully for People, Potentates and Progress of the gospel





Truly, Paul was a man of  
prayer worthy of imitation.



Are you a person of  
prayer like Paul?







Let us pray!