

A Pattern for Prayer Notes

Ephesians 1:15-23

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Main Point: God wants us to pray so we'll grow to know Him better.

God has already blessed us, now we need to appropriate these blessings through prayer.

He praises them for two things.

1. He celebrates their _____.
 - The word faith means "conviction and persuasion."
2. He celebrates their _____.
 - Not only were they in a good place vertically with God, but were also growing horizontally in their relationships with others.

The Christian Life Has Two Dimensions.

1. Faith toward _____.
2. Love toward _____ (Colossians 1:4, 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 John 4:21).
The word "cease" means "to pause, or _____" (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Samuel 12:23).

Observations

1. Although the Ephesians lived in a culture hostile to Christianity, Paul doesn't pray for their _____.
2. Paul does not request _____ items for believers, for good health, or for them to have a good day.
3. Paul does not ask God to change their _____.
4. Letting people know you are praying for them is a healthy practice.
5. Paul does not ask for God to give them what they do not have, but rather prays that God will _____ to them what they already have.

That We Might Understand the Mysteries of God (vs 17).

1. The word "wisdom" speaks of "_____ and skill."
2. "Revelation" refers to an "_____ in order to understand."
3. Paul wants believers to understand their position and their possessions in Christ (1 Corinthians 2:10).
4. This verb for "know" is more intimate than intellectual and means "to know _____, deeply, and thoroughly."
5. Paul's prayer is that God would grant us a deeper _____ knowledge of Him (Jeremiah 9:23, Hosea 6:3, John 17:3, Philippians 3:10).
6. The word "enlightened" means "to see, to illuminate, to have the _____ turned on."
7. In the Bible, the word "heart" not only refers to the emotions, but also to the inner person which includes the mind and the will. It's the _____ you.
8. Ask God to help us understand two things:

- That God loves to restore _____ when we're hopeless.
 - The word for hope in the Bible doesn't mean, "I hope so," but rather, "I _____ so."
- God longs for us to understand that we are _____ inheritance (Deuteronomy 32:9, Psalm 33:12, Zephaniah 3:17, Revelation 19:7, 21:9).

That We Might Understand the Might of God.

1. "The immeasurable greatness of His power."
 - The word "immeasurable" means "_____, surpassing, over and above."
 - "Greatness" is the Greek word "megas."
 - The word "power" is the Greek word "dunamis" which refers to _____ and dynamo.
2. "The working of His great might."
 - The word "working" is the word "energia" which means energy and refers to the Lord's work _____ us.
 - The word "might" can be defined as "ability, _____, and strength" (Ephesians 6:10).
 - The mightiest power was unleashed when Jesus was raised from the dead and when He ascended into Heaven where He is now exalted (Ephesians 2:6).

That We Might Understand the Majesty of Christ.

1. Jesus is not just above, He is "_____ above" (John 3:31)
2. The phrase "rule and authority and power and dominion" may refer to different gradations of rank in the spiritual world including angelic beings and evil spirits.
3. Romans 8:38-39 says there is nothing and no one who can _____ us from the love of Christ.
4. We are in a spiritual battle already _____ by Jesus (Ephesians 6:12).
5. As Christ Himself said in Matthew 28:18 before giving the Great Commission: "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth."

Prayer Points

1. Pray the prayers in the Bible out loud.
2. Write out your prayers in a journal.
3. Use published prayers like those found in the "Valley of Vision."
4. Read a book on prayer.
5. Attend the Concert of Prayer we're scheduling for Sunday night, February 18.
6. Attend the Quad Cities Prayer Meeting next Sunday night at 6 PM at Calvary Church in Moline.
7. Pray on the spot when someone shares a prayer request.
8. Call and leave a prayer on voicemail for someone.
9. Continue to pray that God will provide our next Administrative Pastor and Director of Children's Ministry.
10. Use this prayer from Ephesians 1 as a pattern for how to pray for yourself, our church, missionaries, family members, and friends.