

Romans 15:30-33

Prayers for Me

1. 15:30-33 – Paul Prays for Prayer

- a. Giving and prayer: 2 things people cease doing after learning grace. (Don't stop.)
- b. Giving and prayer both taught here by example not explanation. (A good pattern.)
- c. Give as you purpose in your heart, likewise we pray as we desire and purpose in our heart.
- d. The difference: "*I beseech you...*" - Paul asks for prayer, but not for money.

2. 15:30 - Prayers for Me

- a. Why pray? → "for the Lord Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit"
 - i. We are Christ's Body, members together; the Spirit unites us - Rom 15:5-6, 13, 16
- b. "*ye strive together with me*" - it takes work to be of one mind/heart - Phi 4:7, Eph 4:3
- c. Not a prayer of thanksgiving or praise, but simply prayer: a request, ask, supplication.
 - i. When we learn that our prayers were selfish, demanding, uninformed, rather than let our mind/heart be changed it would be wrong to stop asking God for anything.
 - ii. It is good and acceptable to request God "in every thing" (not for) - Phi 4:6
- d. "*in your prayers*" - Paul requests for others to ask "for me" → intercession.
 - i. Paul requests prayer often → 2 Cor 1:11, Eph 6:18-20, Col 4:3, 1Th 5:25, 2Th 3:1
 - ii. Praying for others in the Body produces a common purpose, mind, trust in God.
- e. "*to God for me*" - Prayer not just self-help mantras, it appeals to God who works in all of us
 - i. Prayer is an exercise in faith: the hardest part is when it challenges your faith.
 - ii. Will we submit to God's work; using prayer to grow our faith or to obstruct it.

3. 15:31-32 – Prayer List

- a. 4 things requested, all start w/"that I may" → these may come to be, or not. Pray they do.
 - i. Time and chance happeneth to them all – Ecc 9:11, 2Tim 2:25. Yes, even Christians.
 - ii. "Don't leave it to chance" means to make preparation, plans, petitions, purposes.
 - iii. We pray, and request prayer, in part to prepare against negative chance.
 - iv. We can look for God to work acc to his will, and more people aligned w/a purpose.
- b. 1) Deliverance from them that do not believe in Judaea – Acts 23:14, 24:17-18
 - i. He was eventually killed by their resistance, but did get to go to Rome first.
- c. 2) His service... may be accepted of the saints – Acts 21:18-33
 - i. It was received, but he had to take a vow, a tumult arose, and he got arrested.
- d. 3) I may come unto you with joy - Acts 21:4-13
 - i. God promised hardship, he did arrive in Rome in chains (but with joy – see Phil)
- e. 4) I may with you be refreshed – Acts 28:13-16, 28:30-31
 - i. He was refreshed in Rome, but after being rejected by the Jews there. 28:28-29
- f. **Did his prayers fail?** In some ways, yes. For God's purposes, no.
 - i. We pray to participate in God's will, to align ours with his. Pray, then watch-Col 4:2
 - ii. When it does not happen as you asked, look for God to work as he said - Eph 3:20
 - iii. Look for if another part of his will that can be done though your failed request.
 - iv. Our prayers are myopic and shortsighted, God is not. We must pray w/humility.

4. 15:33 – "*God of peace*" – also mentioned in in Phi 4:9 after following Paul's pattern of prayer.

- a. Fear, worry, anxiety of potential outcomes ← Good reasons to pray.
- b. God of patience (15:5), mercy (9), hope (13), peace (33), and of all glory (16:27)