

C. WHAT DO I DO TO MAKE THIS REAL?

1. Don't rely on feelings or moods or inward conditions
No matter how I feel, God has provided the way. Remind yourself of the Gospel, the grace that always is there.
2. Preach to yourself God's provisions to you
1 Jn 1:7-9, 2:1-2 We have been given an Advocate
3. Thank God
Thank Him for His mercy and compassion.
Phil 4:6, James 4:8
4. Manifest the wisdom of God

V 13---Paul's reason for alluding formerly to his imprisonment is now manifest. It was to prevent them from being discouraged when they heard of his persecution.

2. PRAYING TO THE FATHER

1:14-15

This is what Paul was going to take up at the beginning of the chapter. Verse 1 Started with—for this cause, and then he went on a digression of the great mystery. At the end of chapter 2, the Ephesians were said to be brought into one family. They were in unity with the Jews.

A. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The 2 things a pastor should be most concerned with, are telling his people who they are in Christ, and urging them to live like it. He is to get them to understand their spiritual power and then he motivates them to use it. He wants them to use the maximum power.

Paul prays for them, even though he is the prisoner. He can be behind bars, in stocks, have guards chained to him, but they can't take away his conversation with God. No matter the problems we have, we can pray in the spirit.

If you are confined to a sick bed, you can still pray for others.

Paul was active and busy in prison. This is probably why God permitted that Paul be arrested. He was a mighty warrior on his knees. He spent his time praying for various churches.

We need to pray for Christians in other countries under persecution.

B. PRAYER IS NECESSARY AS DOCTRINE IS

The two cannot be separated.

C. THE POSTURE OF PRAYER

Hebrews 12:28, Isa 6:5,

There are many different postures that the believer does in the presence of God.

We don't want to be legalistic.

Gen 18:22, 1 Chron 17:16, Mt 26:39, Ps 95:1-6, Ezra 9:5-6, Dan 6:10, Acts 20:36

D. THE FATHER

1. Creator of all

Acts 17:29

2. Family of the redeemed

God is the Father of all the redeemed, specifically.

Hebrews 12:22-24

You may be unknown by the world, but if you belong to Christ, you are in His family and your Father has His eye upon you.

E. ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES

May God open our eyes to the privileges that are ours through the Name that is on us.

Eph 1:3,4,7,9,11,17

3. THE INNER MAN

1:16

A. WHAT PAUL DOES NOT PRAY FOR

He does not pray for a change in circumstances or that he would be freed from prison so he could return to the Ephesians.

He doesn't put up a general prayer that is vague.

He didn't just pray for a blessing upon the people.

B. WHAT PAUL'S PRAYER IS

1. Spiritual

We are not to start our prayer about the material

Mt 6:33

2. Specific

He singled out certain matters.

3. Not about making us happy

We should be concerned about spiritual growth, knowledge of God, and enjoying Him.

Jn 16:33, Acts 14:22, Phil 1:29, 2 Tim 3:12

While there is sin left in this world there will be troubles.

C. BUILDING UP THE RESISTANCE

Our bodies are filled with germs which can become lethal and destroy us.

How does the body deal with this? It has a mechanism to resist the attacks.

There can be infection, but there can be resistance. Food and exercise are ways to fight. There are drugs that can deal directly with invading germs.

It however does not build up resistance.

The matter that Paul is interested with is building up the resistance.

Luke 18:1, 2 Cor 4:17-18

Prayer fills the lungs of the soul with the oxygen of the Holy Spirit and His power. Fill yourself with the life of God.

Don't spend your time thinking about the things that defeat us, but rather, build yourself up on the most holy faith.

D. THE MEANING OF INNER MAN

2 Cor 4:16, Rom 7:22

The inner man is the opposite of the body and all its functions

E. RETREATING TO THE INNER MAN

When you realize what is happening to the outer perishing body, as it is fainting, you see the inner man is renewed every day.

We are not to be dependant on circumstances and controlled by them.

We don't want to be in one dimension. We will become depressed and hopeless. We have a new man with the divine nature implanted into us.

But the devil wants to discourage us and make us feel discouraged.