



**BIBLE
SOCIETY**

Live light

Praying Paul's Prayers

Scripture taken from the NIV 2011

Day	Passage on Paul's Prayer	Verse reference	Questions
1	First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.	Romans 1:8-10	Paul prays for the church in Rome. What is he thankful for? How often does Paul pray for them? What does Paul pray for? What does this show you about Paul's Prayer? Who can you pray this for?
2	May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.	Romans 15:5-6	What does Paul pray? What does Paul ask God for? What would this answered prayer look like? What do we learn to pray for?
3	May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.	Romans 15:13	What does Paul pray for? What is the goal of this prayer? What do you learn to pray for? Who can you pray this for?
4	Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?' 'Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?' For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory for ever! Amen	Romans 11:33-36	Paul ends a dense argument in Romans 9-11 with this doxology. How does it teach us to approach God? What do we learn about God in this prayer? Pray it in your own words.

Praying Paul's Prayers (continued)

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5	I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favourably received by the Lord's people there, so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed. The God of peace be with you all. Amen.	Romans 15:30-33	What does Paul urge the church at Rome to do? What is the content of his prayer? What missionaries can you pray this for? What do you learn about prayer from Paul?
6	I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.	1 Corinthians 1:4-9	What does Paul thank God for? How is God's grace seen? What do we learn about God in this prayer?
7	Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.	2 Corinthians 1:3-7	What does Paul know about God in this prayer? What does Paul pray for? What do we learn to pray for in the face of suffering? How has Paul learnt to handle suffering? Who can you pray this prayer for?
8	But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?	2 Corinthians 2:14-16	What does Paul give thanks for? What does it mean to spread the aroma of the knowledge of God? What are the different responses to this aroma? What do we learn from this prayer?

Praying Paul's Prayers (continued)

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9	This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!	2 Corinthians 9:12-15	Paul demonstrates that thankfulness to God flows from those who receive gifts of material generosity? What is Paul thankful for? What do we learn about prayerful generosity?
10	Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.	2 Corinthians 12:7-9	Here is a prayer the Lord chooses to say no to? What was Paul praying for? Why is "No" God's answer to this prayer? What does Paul learn through this prayer?
11	Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored.	2 Corinthians 13:7-9	What does Paul pray for? What is the goal of Paul's prayer? What does this prayer teach us about ourselves? Who could you pray this prayer for?
12	Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.	Ephesians 1:3-10	Ephesians is full of rich meaty prayers. What do you learn from this prayer of thanksgiving? What do we learn about God the Father? What do we learn about God the Son? What does Paul praise God for? How does this prayer enrich your prayer life? Pray this prayer.

Praying Paul's Prayers (continued)

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13	<p>For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.</p>	Ephesians 1:15-23	<p>What is the motivation for this prayer? What does Paul ask God For? What do we learn about God in this prayer? What do we learn about Jesus in this Prayer? Pray this Prayer.</p>
14	<p>For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.</p> <p>Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.</p>	Ephesians 3:14-21	<p>What does Paul pray for? What do we learn about our relationship with our heavenly Father? Who could you pray this for? What do you learn to pray for from this prayer? Pray it!</p>
15	<p>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.</p> <p>Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.</p>	Ephesians 6:18-21	<p>Prayer is a 'weapon' in the spiritual battle for a Christian. What does Paul pray for? Who could you pray this for?</p>

Praying Paul's Prayers (continued)

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16	I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.	Philippians 1:3-6	Thanksgiving is a feature of Paul's prayers. What is he thankful for here? Who does he pray for? Who could you pray this for?
17	And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.	Philippians 1:9-12	What does Paul pray for here? What is the fruit of his prayer? Who could you pray this for? Pray this in your own words?
18	Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.	Philippians 4:4-7	What does Paul rejoice in? How is it possible to rejoice in all situations? What do we learn about prayer here? Who can you pray this for?
19	Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen	Philippians 4:21-23	What does Paul pray for here? What do we learn about the fellowship of believers? Prayer reflects relationships. Who could you pray this for?
20	We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.	Colossians 1:3-6	What does Paul thank God for? Paul's triplet of faith, hope and love regularly come together in Paul's prayers, how are they seen here? Where does faith and love spring from? How is the fruit of the Gospel seen? Who can you pray this for?

Praying Paul's Prayers (continued)

Day	Passage on Paul's Prayer	Verse reference	Questions
21	For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.	Colossians 1:9-14	What does Paul pray for? What is the goal of this prayer? What does this teach you to pray for others?
22	Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.	Colossians 4:2-6	Paul encourages prayer for the spread of the Gospel. What does he pray for here? What does he encourage the Colossians to pray for? How can you pray this kind of prayer? Who can you pray for?
23	We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.	1 Thessalonians 1:2-3	How are faith, hope, and love part of this prayer? What does Paul pray for here? Who can you pray for in this way?
24	And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: you suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.	1 Thessalonians 2:13-16	What does Paul give thanks for here? How would this prayer encourage the Thessalonians in the face of suffering? How have the Thessalonians suffered? Why is prayer an encouragement in the face of suffering?

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25	<p>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.</p> <p>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.</p>	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	What is Paul thankful to God for? What does this show about the relational content of prayer? What do we learn about Paul from the personal nature of this prayer? What does he pray for the Thessalonians? What would answered prayer here look like?
26	<p>May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.</p> <p>Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.</p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.</p>	1 Thessalonians 5:23-28	What does this prayer teach us about God? What does this prayer ask God For? What is the goal of this prayer? Who could you pray it for?
27	<p>With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	2 Thessalonians 1:11-12	What does God ask for in this prayer? What is the goal of this prayer? How is Jesus glorified by this prayer? Who can you pray this for?
28	<p>I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.</p>	1 Timothy 2:1-6	Paul encourages Timothy to pray for kings and those in authority? What does Paul pray for governments? How does a prayer for peace help the spread of the Gospel? What do we learn about Jesus here? What should we pray for our government?

Praying Paul's Prayers (continued)

Day	Passage on Paul's Prayer	Verse reference	Questions
29	I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.	2 Timothy 1:3-7	What do we learn about Paul's prayer life? What does he pray for Timothy here? How is prayer expressed relationally? What do we learn about the relationship between Paul and Timothy? How can you pray for your friends?
30	May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.	2 Timothy 1:16-18	Here is a personal prayer Paul shares with Timothy about the converted slave Onesiphorus. What does he pray for Onesiphorus? Why does he pray this way? Who could we pray this for?
31	I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.	Philemon 4-7	Here is a personal prayer between Paul and Philemon (the master of Onesiphorus). What does Paul thank God for? What do we learn about prayer for others from Paul? Who can you thank God for?