



A
PRAYER
for the
CHURCH

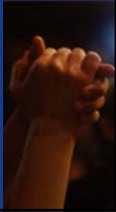
Colossians 1:9-14

Introduction

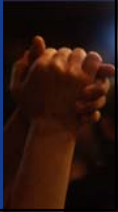
“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.”

Samuel Chadwick

“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 saints.”
Ephesians 6:18

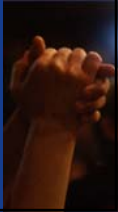


How can we pray for the church and for one another?



I. **PRAY** often.
Colossians 1:9

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you!”



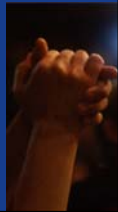
That says a lot about the value Paul placed on prayer.

Have you ever prayed for someone other than your family for 8 years?

“For forty years, the sun never rose on China that God did not find him (Hudson Taylor) on his knees.”
Howard Taylor



Prayer is like physical exercise. It needs to be done regularly if we are to stay in shape.



II. **PRAY** specifically.
Colossians 1:10-12



Paul prayed for two things:

- That they would know God’s will for their lives.
- That they would live a life worthy of Christ.

The kind of knowledge Paul prayed for was a deep and accurate understanding of who Jesus is, of the gospel, and of how God wants us to live.

Paul prayed for knowledge so that they would live a life worthy of Christ.

What does a life look like that is pleasing to God?

1. It is a life that bears fruit.

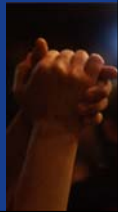
"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

2. It is a life that is growing in the knowledge of God and his will.
3. It is a life that is constantly strengthened by his power. Verse 11
4. It is a life that continually gives thanks to God. Verse 12

One of the marks of a true believer is gratitude.

What kinds of things do we pray for?

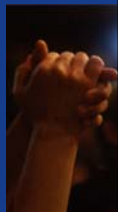
What kinds of things did Paul pray for?



III. **PRAY** confidently.
Colossians 1:12-14



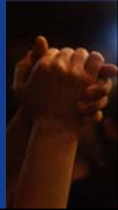
"He has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."



"He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness."



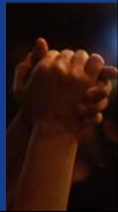
"He has redeemed us and forgiven us all our sins."



"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"
Romans 8:32



"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him."
1 John 5:14-15



I don't know of a better way to pray with confidence than to pray using the Scriptures.



Conclusion

Will you join me in praying for our church and for one another?

Would you make a personal commitment to pray more consistently, more specifically, and more confidently, according to God's Word?