



New Testament Prayers For The Church

Study 8

East Taieri Presbyterian Church

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There are many prayers in the New Testament and there is value for us in studying them. In particular, in these studies, we will not consider the need for prayer or how to pray. Our focus is: What did they pray about?

What are the prayer concerns and priorities of the apostles?

What sort of church were they wanting to see?

What might happen if we consistently prayed these prayers for our own church?

If these prayers were answered, what would the church/individuals look like?

What is their significance for our own growth?

It is strongly recommended that you go through the studies by yourself before you meet as a group. Pray and study asking God to reveal wonderful things to you.

Then, when you do meet, you will be able to share the insights God has given people rather than just start your thinking.

Each study follows the following sequence:

- Observe
 - This is just about noticing the facts. Look carefully at what the Bible actually says. We are not yet interpreting it – just noticing it.
 - This is the “What?” question.
- Understand
 - What is the meaning and significance of what you have observed?
 - This is the “So what?” question.
- Apply
 - We are to be “doers of the word” (James 1:22). How will you put this teaching into action?
 - This is the “What now?” question.

There are resources on prayer at <https://sites.google.com/view/christianspirituality/spiritual-practices/prayer>.

Study 8 – Lives Worthy Of Jesus

Introductory Discussion

1. Imagine you simply observed the life of a Christian. What behaviours would you expect to see?

If you didn't, what would you conclude?

Observe

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3.

2. What does Paul give thanks for?
3. What does James 2:14-26 say about the connection between faith and works?

Read Colossians 1:9-14.

4. Look back on Study 5 and fill in these gaps again, to outline the structure of this passage.

The one request: _____
_____ (v.9)

The one desired result: so that _____
_____ (v.10)

The four aspects of that result: _____ (v.10)
_____ (v.10)
_____ (v.11)
_____ (v.12)

Understand

5. Thinking about 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, are there logical connections between faith and works, love and labour, and hope and endurance? What are they?

6. These passages are different but in what ways do they illustrate the same principle?

Matthew 3:7-8

1 John 3:18

Hebrews 6:11-12

Thinking about Colossians 1:9-14...

7. What is your response to “live a life worthy of Jesus and pleasing Him in every way”? What would be required?

8. Did Paul seem to think it was possible?

9. What do you understand by each of the four “aspects” listed in verse 10 to 12?

Bearing fruit in every good work. (See also John 15:1-7, especially v.16)

Growing in the knowledge of God

Being strengthened by God for endurance and patience

Giving joyful thanks to the Father

10. Do you think those 4 “aspects” summarise a life worthy of Jesus and pleasing to Him? Would you write a different list?

11. In the minds of the apostles, how important was the way their disciples lived? Why do you say that?

Apply

12. How can you do the following? If you are in a group, how you can help each other?

Bear fruit in every good work

Grow in your knowledge of God

Be strong so as to endure and have patience

Give joyful thanks to the Father

13. Write a prayer based on either 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 or Colossians 1:9-14 (or both). Keep it somewhere handy and pray it frequently for your family, friends and church. Pray it regularly as a group.