
4. In verses 17-19, Paul mentions two things that he keeps asking God for on behalf of the Ephesians but each of them contains a “so that”. Fill in the following.

Requests 1: _____ (v.17)

Why? _____ (v.17)

Request 2: _____ (v.18)

Why? So that you may know...

_____ (v.18)

_____ (v.18)

_____ (v.19)

Understand

5. Why would each of the following be so important to Paul that he never stopped giving thanks for them?

a. The Ephesians had been saved.

b. The Ephesians had received the Holy Spirit.

c. The Ephesians were people of faith.

d. The Ephesians were people of love.

6. The two main prayer requests in vv.17, 18 (Request 1 and Request 2 above) are similar. How would you summarise what they say?

7. Why, do you think, that was a prayer priority for Paul?

8. Look up some of these passages. What is the theme that runs through them?

- Ephesians 3:17b-19
- Colossians 1:9
- 2 Kings 6:13-17 (esp. 17)
- Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22
- Psalm 119:18
- Luke 24:31 (c.f. v.16)
- Matthew 13:13-18
- John 9:25 (see also vv.39-41)
- 2 Corinthians 4:4

9. Is a prayer for enlightenment/revelation/understanding important primarily for Christians or non-Christians? Why?

10. Consider the four “so that”s. What do you understand by each of these and what difference does it make in everyday life?

a. So that you may know God better

Meaning

Difference

b. So that you may know the hope to which He has called you

Meaning

Difference

c. So that you may know the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.

Meaning

Difference

d. So that you may know His incomparably great power for us

Meaning

Difference

11. It has been said that the New Testament writers prayed really big prayers – spiritually ambitious prayer. Given what you have seen in Ephesians 1:15-23, what do you think is meant by “spiritually ambitious prayers”?

Over the course of these studies, you will be able to compile a list of priority prayer topics as seen in the various New Testament prayers. Feel free to use the wording you came up with but we can now start that list. In this study we have seen Paul’s focus on:

1. Salvation
2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
3. Faith
4. Love
5. Spiritual insight, revelation, enlightenment
6. Knowing God better
7. Knowing our hope
8. Knowing our inheritance
9. Knowing the power of God

12. If we pray similarly “spiritually ambitious prayers” for our families, friends, church, etc., what might we see happen?

Apply

13. Keep that list with you as you pray for your family, friends, church etc. and pray for those things.

14. Spend some time praying now and focus particularly on some of those topics.