

Prayer for Ephesus Ephesians 2:19-22

Draw on idea in two recent lessons - We are God's House; Paul's Prayers
Because we are built together into the temple of Lord
Some things we need...
Paul's prayer for the brethren in Ephesus

Ephesians 3:14-15 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

Prayer Posture not an issue

To bow before shows obeisance, honor and respect

Reminded of Greek for worship - Proskuneo - kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication

The whole family in heaven and earth is named after the Father.

Through God the Father all move and have their existence.

As long as a person is alive no matter how wicked there is hope for him

There is a definite special relationship to the Father for those who are the "children of God"

Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Galatians 4:6-7 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

1John 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

The "inner man" is that part of which we should truly be concerned.

It is that part of man that lives forever.

1Timothy 4:7-8 On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1Peter 3:3-4 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

2Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Paul prayed that we might be strengthened with might through the Spirit.

How does the "Spirit" strengthen? It is in and through His holy word.

We are strengthened every time we study our Bible.

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

Ephesians 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;

Christ wants to take up permanent resident in our hearts.

1Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Acts 4:13 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Be wonderful if that was said of us

If we are Christians it should be, we are His disciples.

We need to completely surrender "self" to Christ.

We need to make him the Master and Ruler of our lives

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Philippians 3:7-11 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Ephesians 3:17-19 and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge,

Being rooted and grounded in love helps comprehend the love of Christ.

1Corinthians 12:31 And I show you a still more excellent way. ,,,

Colossians 3:14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

1John 4:20-21 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Paul said that the love of Christ passes knowledge.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Because of his love for us, Jesus willingly died in our place, paying our debt

Though we will never know the true essence of Christ's love ..

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

We can know a few things about it.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1Corinthians 13:8 Love never fails;

2Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

It changed a "tax collector" into a disciple .. "unlearned fishermen" into powerful proclaimers of the gospel .. a

"persecutor" into the "persecuted" .. it can even change us ...

Ephesians 3:19 that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Be filled with all the fullness of God.

Colossians 2:9-10 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

We do not need .. Masonry .. the early church fathers .. Joseph Smith .. or whoever

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

We need to strive diligently to please Him.

We will be judged by Him in the last day ...

Romans 2:16 ... God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

God is fully capable of answering our prayers.

The Holy Spirit uses words to emphasize.

"far more abundantly beyond all"

Daniel 3:17-18 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.

This is an example of how we should approach God in prayer.

We humbly pray for God's help, but whether He will or He will not, is completely up to Him.

Our prayer should be that God be glorified in the church.

We need to be united in holding to the truth, loving one another, and leading souls to Christ.

This is a marvelous prayer .. a beautiful prayer.

We need to pray in the same fashion .. individually .. collectively.

We too are in need of these same great spiritual blessings.

In all things .. may God be glorified through Christ for ever and ever. AMEN.

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