

# THE BEREANS

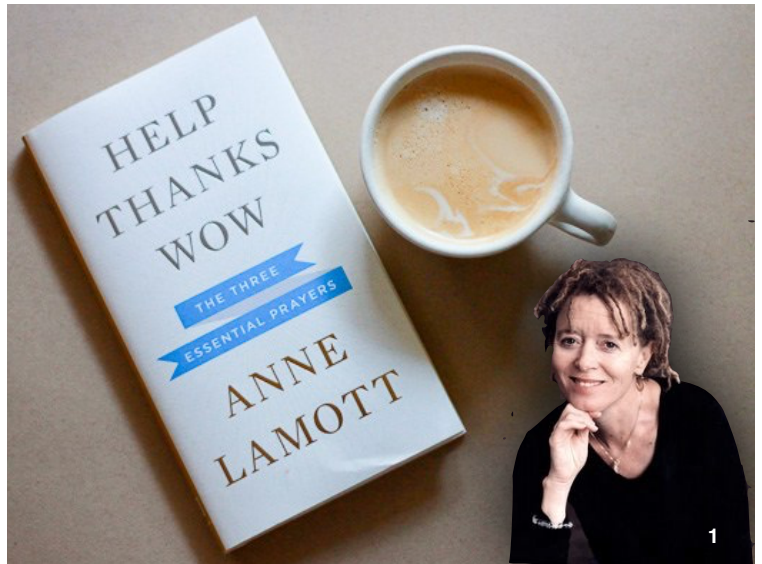
ACTS 17:11

**Ephesians 6:18-20**

**Lesson #55**

**Paul's Prayer List**

**09/16/2018**



## “Help”

- Our prayers usually start with petition in response to fears or pain.



*1 Peter 5:7*

“casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

2

In prayer we give critical attention to:

- **style** (Lord's Prayer, Tongues, posture, etc.),
- **time** (Meals, Bedtime, Always, etc.),
- **object** (Father, Son, H.S, Mary, saints),
- **heart** (without doubt, passion, etc.)



3

*John 14:14*

“If you ask Me **anything** in My name, I will do it.”



The promise seems to be about the granting of any request.  
(not “yes”, “no”, or “wait”)

4

*1 John 5*

“14 And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

Does “His will” refer to

- **our inner attitude,**
- **our style,**
- **or what we ask for?**



5



“In prayer it is better  
to have a heart  
without words  
than words  
without a  
heart.”

John Bunyan



6

### Romans 8

“26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for **we do not know how to pray as we should**, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints **according to the will of God.**”

Do we realize that  
**“the mind of the Spirit”**  
may escape our mind?

7

### Luke 22:42

“Father, if You are willing,  
remove this cup from me; yet  
not My will, but Yours be done.”

Even Jesus needed  
to submit his will to  
that of the Father.



8

“The difference  
between you and God  
is that God  
never thinks  
He is you.”

Anne Lamott



9

### James 4

“2 . . . You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

Our petitions are  
not only to reflect  
our heart

**but also  
God's heart.**



10

Paul's  
Prayer  
List ?



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## Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-3

Our walk in Christ

ch. 4-6

1:18-19

“18 I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you may know what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His **inheritance** in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His **power** toward us who believe. . . .”

12

## Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-3

Our walk in Christ

ch. 4-6

3:14-19

“14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every **family** in heaven and on earth derives its name, 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**; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in **love**, 18 may be able to **comprehend** with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be **filled up to all the fulness of God**.”

13

## Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-3

Our walk in Christ

ch. 4-6

6:18-20

“18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times **in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

14

## Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-3

Our walk in Christ

ch. 4-6

## Observe

- Paul **begins** the letter with his prayer for the Ephesians and **ends** his letter exhorting them to pray for one another and him.

15

## Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ

ch. 1-3

Our walk in Christ

ch. 4-6

He is first concerned that we see our **INHERITANCE** and **HOPE**.  
He is then concerned that we see our **FAMILY** and **LOVE**.  
He is finally concerned that we encourage **PERSEVERANCE** and **WITNESS**.

He prays that we will “get it”

He prays that we will “give it”

16

## Observe

- Paul **begins** the letter with his prayer for the Ephesians and **ends** his letter exhorting them to pray for one another and him.
- Paul encourages prayer that is **sensitive** to the Spirit, the situation, and the saints.

17



## ***“PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT”***

### *Paul’s “Spirit Sensitive” Prayer List*

- Is concerned that disciples are enlightened in **heavenly hope**.
- Is concerned that disciples are grounded in **loving relationships**.
- Is concerned that disciples are **persevering in life’s struggles**.
- Is concerned that disciples are **courageous in witness**.

18

## ***Observe***

- Paul **begins** the letter with his prayer for the Ephesians and **ends** his letter exhorting them to pray for one another and him.
- Paul encourages prayer that is **sensitive** to the Spirit, the situation, and the saints.
- Paul prays for his freedom (**not from his chains**) but to be a bold ambassador for the Gospel. (and that he might be with them - Philemon 22)

19

## ***Note what is not on Paul’s prayer list***

- Hopes that are **centered in this life**.
- Agendas that are **“self centered”**.
- Escape from **physical suffering**.
- Escape from **spiritual struggle**.

20

## ***How to pray for others when you don’t know what to “petition God for”.***

- That they would **see** the inheritance, hope, and power they have in Christ.
- That they would **know** and display God’s love for His family.
- That they would **persevere** through the trials of life.
- That they would be a **faithful** ambassador for Christ.

21

## ***Two things that have changed in my walk with God as I have grown older.***

### ***My expectations -***

- from my priorities to God’s priorities.
- from my “understanding and control of” to my “response to” life’s mysteries.

### ***My petitions -***

- from self discipline to faith,
- from changing outer circumstances and others to my inner heart,
- from control to response.

22

**What’s  
on your  
Prayer  
List ?**



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