

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father,  
<sup>15</sup> from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth  
derives its name.  
<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen  
you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,  
<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.  
And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,  
<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp  
how wide and long and high and deep is the love of  
Christ,  
<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that  
you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of  
God. **Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV)**

**How is my prayer life**

**How is our prayer life as an organized body (the church)**

**Sometimes we ask will God answer my prayer**

**And if God is an all-powerful God, why doesn't He just give us what we needs?**

**If He's an all-knowing God, why do we need to pray at all?**

**How can God heal someone because of my prayer**

**Why do I have to tell some one to pray for me when I can go to God**

**Mtt. 6:8 says that God knows what we need before we ask Him so why ask?**

# IS PRAYER A CHOICE OR NECESSITY?



# **Choice**

- **Do you only pray because you were asked to**
- **Do you pray because you feel like it?**
- **Do you pray because you have a desperate need.**
- **Do you pray because you are on a schedule?**

# Necessity

**For Christians, prayer should be like breathing.**

- . The life and ministry of the early church was modeled by prayer
  - . **Acts 1:14** They all joined together constantly in prayer
  - . Acts 1:24,25 they pray for wisdom to select leaders
  - . Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to prayer
  - . Acts 3:1 They had a time for prayer
- One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at **the time of prayer**--at three in the afternoon.

Acts 4 Peter and John were put in prison In Verse 23 they were released

In Verse 29-31 **\_ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.**

**30** Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

**31** After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly

Acts 12:5 when Peter was put to Jail the church was earnestly praying for him

# Prayer life in the church today

- In most congregations today prayer is not priority.
- Somebody said No person can be a child of God without living in a life of prayer; and no church can be in lively condition without unity of prayer.”
- “Any church without a well-organized and systematic prayer program is simply operating a religious treadmill.
- **“There is a culture shock that is changing the conscience of the people.” (Craig)**
- As Christians we have moral obligation to be concern for each other

# **Paul with Ephesians**

- In Ephesians Church Paul demonstrated his love for the brethren by lifting them up in Prayers.
- Their society was much different, but the difficulties and struggles of life were much the same as today
- Their generation faced circumstances and afflictions that were beyond their ability to control. The same as we do today.
- From their time and now, none have lived without the need for prayer.
- Prayer is the means by which we make our requests and supplications known to God.
- It is the means by which we lift people up, both spiritually and physically.
- It gives people hope and inspiration.
- It makes people feel that yes our God is alive and He is able

# Paul with Ephesians

Things we must concern and pray about

## 1. Spiritual Development

- Eph. 3:14 **For this reason I kneel before the Father,**
- Verse 16 **I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,**
  - a. Paul was concerned about the spiritual development of the brethren at Ephesus.
  - b. Paul knew that if the church was to progress and prosper, there had to be continual Spiritual growth
  - c. So Paul is saying that we should pray for God to strengthen us with POWER. (*power to do what? Verse 18*)
- Verse 18 .....to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.
  - a. In other words we need the ability to comprehend the incomprehensible
  - b. Ability to comprehend the Love of Christ
  - c. Ability to comprehend the difficulties in our lives.



# Paul with Ephesians

Things we must concern and pray about

## 2. What dwell in your heart

- Eph. 3:17a. He was concern about what dwell in their heart.
- Verse 17a So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.....
- Eph. 3:17b. He was concern about their devotion or dedication.  
No one is born into God's family as a mature adult
- And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, vs 17b
- Life is not easy, it will take a firm foundation of LOVE to accept  
Certain PEOPLE,  
Certain CIRCUMSTANCES  
Certain BEHAVIOR  
Certain CHALLENGES.  
Certain Environment Etc

## **CONCLUSION**

- **Is prayer a choice or necessity?.**
- **How is your Christian life?**
- **How is our prayer life as a individual?**
- **How is our prayer life as a church?**
- **What concerns me most in the church?**
- **How can my prayer strengthen others?**
- **Do I allow the culture shock change my conscience?**