



Melbourne
Inclusive Church
Come as you are.

Let Us Pray Wk. 4 The Prayer of the Apostle

Key Verse

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

Ephesians 1:15-20 (NIV)

A prayer of thanksgiving

15 ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers

- Paul gives thanks **while in prison**—he's not bitter, but grateful.
- Gratitude **shifts our mindset** from complaining to blessing.
- Paul is **thankful for the faith of the believers** in Ephesus demonstrated by their care for him
- When we pray we **begin by thanking God** for all God has done in our life

To know God: Prayer for spiritual insight

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Our relationship with God is tied to our spiritual growth.

- Paul prays for believers to **know God personally** (Greek: *epignosis* = experiential knowledge).
- This is not just about **head knowledge**, but **heart connection**.
- Pray that Jesus will be the **true Lord** of your life

21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

Freedom: Prayer for hope and calling

18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you

The heart **filters** how we see life—through joy, pain, fear, etc.

- Paul prays that we grasp the **hope** we've been called to (Greek: *elpis* = confident expectation).
- Hardship can **harden** our view of hope – confess therefore that you can see with clarity
- Hope gives us **freedom** to move forward in our calling

Scriptures to Reflect On

23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

James 5:16 (NLT)

24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

Living a Life of Purpose and Calling

18b "...the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints."

- We are Saints **set apart** by God for a purpose (*hagios* = holy, set apart).
- Our inheritance is **two-fold** finding expression both here on Earth and in Heaven
 - Salvation and eternity in **Heaven**.
 - Empowerment, wisdom, and direction here on **Earth** to serve
- God gives each of us **unique spiritual gifts** to serve others.

Examples of Gifts

Prophecy, Healing, Intercession, Tongues and interpretation of tongues, Mercy, Encouragement.

Fruit of the Spirit as a Framework

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control



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POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

19 his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

- Same power that **raised Jesus from the dead** lives in us!
- Prayer isn't about getting God's attention; it's about **acknowledging God's presence** with us and working through us.
- Living with purpose and producing fruit brings **joy** and **glory to God**.

8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father

11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

John 15:8, 11 (NLT)

Reflection question and prayer

What do we think would happen if we began to pray this kind of prayer for our spouse or children, our co-workers, even our enemies?

"I pray that they may know God more deeply...
That they may understand the hope of their calling...
That they would walk in their calling...
And live in the power of Christ."

Call to action

Personalise Ephesians 1:15–23

Insert your name or the name of someone else and pray it aloud this week.

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ may give [Name] the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that [they] may know God better..."