

Home Group Questions - January 7, 2018

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul prays a lot for the churches he is writing to. He also encourages people in the church to pray a lot. Let's take a quick look at the 19 main things that we see Paul praying for or encouraging others to pray for.

1. That we can boldly and clearly proclaim God's word
2. That our missionary endeavors would succeed and that God's word would spread
3. That God would help us work together in harmony and be uplifted by each other's company
4. That we would bring glory to God
5. That God would fill us with joy and peace and hope
6. That God and his spirit would be with us
7. That God would comfort our hearts
8. That we would be full of love for one another
9. That God would provide for us (financially and otherwise)
10. That God would give us strength and power and endurance
11. That God would protect us from evil
12. That God would give us a Spirit of wisdom and understanding
13. That God would have mercy on us and forgive us both now and at the day of judgment
14. For safe travels
15. For our Church leaders
16. For our worldly leaders
17. For other Christians around the world
18. For any other requests we may have
19. Thanking God...
 - For the people in the church (for their faith and their love)
 - That the gospel is spreading
 - For taking care of us and providing for us
 - For the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ

Which of these things do you find yourself praying about the most? Which of these things do you pray about the least?

Many of these things are centered around praying for others, thanking God or bringing glory to God. In other words, we see that it is important not to focus all of our prayers on our own immediate needs or desires. If you could make an estimate, what percentage of your prayers are typically focused on the needs of others? How might spending more time praying for others change your day-to-day life?

We also see Paul mention many times that he prays continually, without ceasing. (Romans 1:9, 12:12; Ephesians 1:16, 6:18; Philippians 4:9; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 Timothy 1:3). Is there any one thing that you have prayed for continually and without ceasing? How do you imagine New Heights would change if it were a church that prayed in this way?

Please consider making a commitment to praying for or about one of these areas every day for the next week. Which one will you choose?