

Unselfish Prayer and Heartfelt Longing

Romans 1:8-15

Sermon-in-a-Sentence: We should always pray with an attitude of submission to God's will and an earnest desire for the spiritual blessing of others.

I. Paul's Gratitude to God (1:8)

➤ We need to intentionally cultivate an attitude of praise and thanksgiving.

A. Through Jesus Christ – Our one and only Mediator between God and ourselves.

B. For Their Faith – Genuine faith manifests itself in observable works.

II. Paul's Service to God (1:9a)

➤ Paul offered himself to God and others through faithful and fruitful service.

A. With His Whole Heart – Is our service to the Lord wholehearted, half-hearted, or do we give Him the leftovers of a heart that is devoted to the pursuits of this world?

B. In Preaching the Gospel – Each of us needs to determine how God has gifted and called us to serve Him. We need to Discover, Develop and Deploy our spiritual gifting.

III. Paul's Prayers to God (1:9b-10)

A. Paul Prayed Continually (1:9b-10a)

1. Prayer is what transforms our feeble human efforts into the effective work of God.
2. The Lord invites us to be co-laborers with Him in accomplishing His mission of bringing people to Himself and making them His disciples.
 - a. Matthew 28:18-20 – The Great Commission is the Great Co-mission.
 - b. The promise of His presence.
3. It is prayer that enables us to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. It is prayer that enables us to be effective and spiritually fruitful in our efforts to serve and glorify God and advance His kingdom.
5. Paul declared his dependence on God through prayer.

B. Paul Prayed in Submission to God's Will (1:10b)

1. Paul took his cue from the example of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:39)
2. It's always appropriate for us to be open and honest with God and express to Him in prayer what it is that we desire for Him to do in any given situation. But it should always be with an attitude of submission to His wisdom and will.
3. James 4:13-15; Proverbs 16:3, 9; 19:21.
4. We need to set goals, make plans and work hard but also maintain an attitude of submission to the will of God.

IV. Paul's Longing for the Romans (1:11-13)

A. Paul Longed to Be a Blessing (1:11)

B. Paul Longed to Be Encouraged (1:12)

C. Paul Longed for a Spiritual Harvest (1:13)

1. Whenever we come together, we should come expecting a blessing.
2. But make it your prayer: "Lord, how can I be a blessing to others? How can I be a channel of Your love and encouragement to someone else today?"

V. Paul's Obligation to the Romans (1:14-15)

- We, too, should feel a sense of obligation to share the Gospel with those around us.
- The Lord did not save us so that we could hoard the Good News and keep it to ourselves.