

PRAYER UNDER GRACE

This is the 2nd message on the subject of prayer. Last week we studied “Prayer Under the Old Testament.” This week we will look at “Prayer in the Dispensation of Grace” as exemplified by the apostle Paul.

Our original thought about prayer from 1 Cor. 14:15 was for us to “pray with the understanding” it is important to realize some vital facts about prayer.

*For a brief review, the nation Israel expected God to either bless them or curse them depending on their behavior. Prayer also worked on their basic “IF THEN” principal. **IF** they obeyed God’s commandments and walked in His ways, **THEN** they could expect their prayers to be heard and answered. But if they did NOT follow the Lord, He specifically told them He WOULD NOT listen to their cries. This next passage “sums up” the issue of prayer under the Old Testament:*

Isa 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

In the book of Proverbs, we see the basis of how God either regarded or ignored prayer back then. It was based upon their obedience to the LAW:

Prov. 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Prov. 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Now, let’s move into Paul’s epistles, to examine

Prayer in the Dispensation of GRACE

When we ‘rightly divide’ the word, we recognize the differences in Paul’s prayers at the beginning of his ministry and the latter part of his ministry. Paul’s thinking about prayer or his ‘prayer requests’ some-what changed as did other things, like water baptism, or speaking in tongues. Things that were evident in his early epistles, such as prayer for safety and deliverance had phased away by the last letters he wrote. Also, keep in mind that God had committed a special message to Paul, to be given out to the Gentiles all the world APART from Israel, even in spite of them.

Paul had a 'body of truth' that God specifically commissioned him to spread. God called it the "revelation of the mystery." Paul did request prayer for safety to carry out the Lord's will in his first epistles. We'll look at some examples of that. But remember that the reason he wanted to get to a certain destination, was to get that 'gospel of grace' to them, as Jesus had instructed him to do.

Paul prayed that God would get him to Thessalonica and not let him be caught:

1 Thess. 3:10-11 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

2 Thess. 3:1-2 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

Paul's first concern was for God's word to get out, and then about his physical safety, but the reason for it was because Paul had been commissioned by Christ to get the message of the revelation of the mystery OUT. He needed personal, Divine protection, in order to accomplish the task that Jesus had given to him to do:

Rom. 15:30-32 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

Acts chapter 21 records what actually happened when Paul went to Jerusalem. A man named Agabus from Judaea came and prophesied that Paul would be captured, bound, and given to the Gentiles. Paul's friends begged him not to go, but he was relentless to go anyway and could not be persuaded, saying he was even ready to die there. Good attitude, because that's just what his enemies planned to happen. He was beaten and taken to court before the council.

When we study Prayer in the Dispensation of Grace, and if you wonder what to pray for, remember this one verse that sort-of sums it all up:

1 Tim. 6:8 And having food and raiment
let us be therewith content.

*That verse alone, solves a lot of problems, and answers a lot of questions about what to pray for. If we have **something to eat and something to wear meals and clothing** God tells us to be happy and pleased with that.*

To be 'content' means to be 'satisfied wanting no more.'

Now, just as 'food for thought' keep in mind the 2 things that God said for us to be content with and let me ask you 2 questions:

- 1. Do you pause, get quiet, and bow your head, close your eyes, and pray, to thank God for your food before you eat every meal?*
- 2. Then do you ALSO stop and be still, while you bow your head, close your eyes, and pray to thank God before you put your clothes on each morning?*

Get the point? Why do one, if you don't do the other? Praying before meals is traditional lots of people say that they do it 'to be a witness' to others.

But when you think about it is that really HOW you witness to others? Isn't TALKING to people the BEST way to witness? That way, they can listen, hear, and possibly understand the WORDS you are SAYING.

Ok, maybe you want to think of it as a 'silent witness' Do you do it like the Pharisees did, so other people will see you? What do people think when they see you bow your head and close your eyes before a meal? Might they think you are a 'religious person'? Would you like to be thought of that way?

Or, why can you just be thankful to God in your mind and heart, without having to 'make a public show' of bowing your head and closing your eyes?

A friend of ours said she preferred to thank God for her food when she was purchasing it RAW buying it in the grocery store. Have you ever thought of that? Why wait until it is cooked? But would you pause, and bow your head, and close your eyes, while you were standing in line, waiting to pay for your groceries?

And, again, do you make a private show, by doing the same thing, when you dress yourself every morning?

*If it is any consolation to you, even the apostle Paul had to **LEARN** to be content. So, it is not something that comes naturally:*

Phil. 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

King Solomon realized the universal problem: man, naturally, always wants more:

Prov. 27:20 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

All that in consideration,

Should we Pray for Physical HEALING ?

Well, the previous verse did NOT include that in the 2 things we are to be content with.

Paul was an apostle, and at some earlier time, he had the power to heal people (Acts 14:9-10, Acts 28:8-9), and even raise the dead (Acts 20:7-10). Although that gift of healing functioned in his early ministry, it was evidently ceasing to be effective, because when he asked God to heal him, God did not. Paul did request physical healing 3 times, actually, in this early epistle but he did NOT get it. He got grace instead!

Obviously, God was teaching Paul an important lesson.

2 Cor. 12:7-10 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 **And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

10 **Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

Here's what Paul got and this is the same thing that we've got and it is sufficient for every problem:

2 Cor. 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2 Cor. 4:15-16 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

16 For which cause we faint not; but **though our outward man perish**, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Paul was realizing that God's focus during the dispensation of grace is on our inside, NOT on our outside. He responded to it the same way we ought to with a good attitude. Instead of getting OUT of it, he can get through it, since it's only for a little while, compared to eternity:

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Paul was waiting for his NEW body one he would get in heaven. He was not looking for his present, FLESHLY body to get any better:

Phil. 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 **Who shall change our vile body**, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Rom. 8:18-19 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Rom. 8:21-23 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Our physical DELIVERANCE from sicknesses, illnesses, and diseases is something we WAIT for in the future It will happen at the RAPTURE. Let's go on to the next verses:

Rom. 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

*The salvation there, is not speaking of the salvation from the eternal penalty of sin, but rather it is salvation from DEPRESSION. That's what HOPE is for. We realize that our physical deliverance is **based upon something we can-NOT see.***

Paul reckoned that we will all eventually get sick, our bodies will malfunction, and we will die. But, we should 'hang on' as long as we can, so we can get out the gospel. That's why he advised Timothy to use wine for medical purposes, since he was sick so OFTEN:

1 Tim. 5:23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

When one of Paul's friends got so sick that he nearly died, Paul was unable to heal him. The passage does not say that God healed the man, but simply that he received mercy. He must have only partially recovered, rather than been miraculously healed, because Paul had to be careful with the guy, when he did send him to them:

Phil. 2:25-28 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

Paul didn't pray for him to be healed, and he didn't ask them to put the man on their 'prayer list' for physical healing.

God created our physical bodies with amazing abilities to repair themselves. When you cut your arm, automatic 'infection fighters' rush to the scene through your blood, and soon a scab forms to act like a natural band-aid, while the recovery is going on underneath it. God made our bodies with mechanisms to fight disease. Even that is a gift from God. A cheerful attitude also helps:

Prov. 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

All that in consideration,

Should we Pray for Physical CIRCUMSTANCES ?

Well, the BASIC verse we read earlier did NOT include 'particular situations in our life' in the 2 things we are to be content with. Let's read it once again:

1 Tim. 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

If prayer was like it used to be (the way we studied it was last week), then Paul could have figured God was very angry with him, for letting all this bad stuff happen to him. We already read in Rom. 8:18, to EXPECT suffering in this present life.

Let's take a look at some of Paul's physical CIRCUMSTANCES.

2 Cor. 11:23-28 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

If Paul could have been rescued by prayer, don't you think he would have been? You see, TODAY TRIBULATION and SUFFERING are NOT a sign of God's displeasure. It used to be, but it isn't anymore:

Rom. 5:1-3 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but **we glory in tribulations** also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Now, instead of praying for RELIEF ... FROM suffering we GLORY in it because God uses it to 'work for GOOD' in our lives. We have a 'standing in grace' (back in vs. 2).

Paul begged the Romans to be that same way --- NOT for deliverance from it:

Rom. 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

God USES the hardships we experience to produce 'good things' in us, rather than 'super-naturally intervening' to remove us from them by prayer. Problems CAN be PRODUCTIVE in our life because of the way God equipped us to handle them:

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Physical CIRCUMSTANCES are NOT an indicator of God's love. The bad things are still bad, but even the BAD is ABLE to be used for GOOD.

*It is very important to know that we are NOT to look at our physical circumstances to determine the love of God for us. When we want to see the love of God for us **the ONLY thing for us to do is to LOOK to CALVARY where Jesus died for our sins:***

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We are assured that our 'physical stresses' are NOT how God's LOVE is revealed to us:

Rom. 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All our physical bodies will eventually experience death, unless Christ returns first. But the point is: We are all SUBJECT to physical disease and death. Yet, God desires to give us victory in our trials not miraculously keep us out of them.

In "Times Past" God suspended the process of physical death by HEALING as a SIGN to Israel to prove Jesus was the Messiah it was the sign of an apostle.

Quite frankly, we are NOT promised physical provision, safety, or protection instead we are told to expect suffering, hardships, and difficulty.

All that considered

HOW can we pray 'according to the Will of God' ?

When you have listened to other people pray, surely you have heard someone TELL God what to do and then follow their 'COMMAND' with a phrase like "IF it is according to YOUR will."

Let's begin with what has been called one of the most comforting verses in the Bible regarding prayer.

Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

First of all, the verse begins with the words “Likewise” and “also” ... which take us back to verse 16 where there is a ‘similar teaching’ a parallel. Here we see that God’s Spirit communicates to us that we are God’s children:

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

HOW does He HOW can He do that? He does is by FAITH:

Gal. 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

And WHERE does FAITH come from?

Rom. 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

We must have faith in the Word of God. That is point # 1.

The second point is, the verse does not say that the Spirit HEALETH but helpeth our weaknesses in the flesh.

Third of all, it is a well-known fact that we are sometimes IGNORANT about what to pray for. Please follow this reasoning with me:

The common understanding of that verse is that “the Holy Spirit takes the prayers that we pray and CHANGES them to make them FIT the will of God.” People typically think that the Holy Spirit ALTERS the things we say in prayer to be in accord with the God’s will and then He presents our prayers to the Father.”

*May I suggest to you that God ALREADY knows our needs, both the Father and the Holy Spirit and that the intercession does NOT take place IN HEAVEN to God but in US. **In other words, because we are ignorant about what to pray for God’s Spirit works INSIDE of us by the WRITTEN WORD of God in our hearts.***

When we pray, the Spirit of God brings scripture verses to our mind, so that we think about situations in light of what God’s WORD says. Then we get a sense of knowing what to pray for, and what to do about things.

We get a look at our concerns from the perspective of ‘what God thinks.’

As we talk through a circumstance with God, the Holy Spirit causes the WORD of God to impart WISDOM to us, so that we can be comfortable with a particular course of action. That is what PEACE is.

So praying 'in the Spirit' and 'according to God's will' is meditating with the scripture and thinking about situations from God's viewpoint. That is how the Holy Spirit will solve the problem of OUR ignorance in prayer. He causes a burden we have been confused about to be eased when we align our MIND and allow it to be molded by God's Word.

That is why we are told to let God control our thoughts. We should not WORRY about things that we IMAGINE MIGHT happen:

2 Cor. 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We need to take our situation, and apply the word of God to it ... rather than being anxious or worried about what could happen:

Phil. 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

We can talk to God about everything that concerns us, realizing that the promise of prayer TODAY is NOT having our physical circumstances or health changed but the promise of prayer for US is PEACE.

That peace comes through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, when He died for our sins. Be careful to NOTICE --- WHERE we get that peace --- NOT in our physical bodies --- but in our HEARTS that is our 'SOUL' --- and in our MINDS that is our 'SPIRIT.' We read earlier in Rom. 5:1, about where that peace comes from: We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ because we are justified by faith.

Now the next verse of Phil. 4 tells us HOW to keep our minds, and WHAT we are to think about so every thought will be under Christ's control:

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Here is how all this 'ties back in to Right Division.' The things we need to think about and have our mind always on are the VERY things that PAUL has taught. He is the apostle to the Gentiles, and he is the person that God chose to minister the 'dispensation of grace.' Paul had a distinctive message --- that it is IMPERATIVE that we FOLLOW it. Then we will understand our standing in grace and we will have God's peace:

Phil. 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do:** and the God of peace shall be with you.

The RESULT of "Pauline prayer" is PEACE that will stabilize you with a sound mind, so that you experience victory in your life, regardless of your circumstances.

Let's back up a few chapters, and look at WHAT Paul prayed for:

Phil. 1:3-11 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,
5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;
6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:
7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.
8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.
9 **And this I pray**, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;
10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;
11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

First, Paul was thankful to God when thought about the Philippians, which he always remembered to do every time he prayed.

Second, Paul was happy and assured that God's word would supply their spiritual need of encouragement to 'keep on -- keeping on' in the gospel, which was their common bond with him.

They had mutual faith (like Rom. 1:12) and fellowship in Paul's gospel of grace.

Third, Paul prayed that their love would grow ... and that it would be an intelligent love, not a silly, blind, unthinking love, but a love based upon sound doctrine.

Fourth, Paul prayed that they would recognize and accept the things that are different.

Fifth, Paul prayed for them to be genuine and not be rude or disrespectful, so they would be good examples to help others to honor the Lord.

Now, let's see *WHAT* Paul prayed for in his letter to the Colossians. Notice how 'dispensational' this prayer is.

Col 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Paul told them their hope was reserved for them in heaven, and assured them that they had the word of the truth of the gospel in vs. 5.

Paul was thankful that the Colossians knew the grace of God in truth in vs. 6.

Now, here is Paul's prayer for the Colossians.

Watch closely for any mention of physical healing

or deliverance from physical circumstances

or miraculous intervention. It is absent! It is NOT there!

Paul's focus in prayer was for INTERNAL things:

Col. 1:9-14 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it,

do not cease to pray for you,

and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will

in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,

being fruitful in every good work,

and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might,

according to his glorious power,

unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

12 Giving thanks unto the Father,

which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,

and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Now, we'll examine the prayer Paul prayed for the saints at Ephesus.

Again, there is no mention for physical health, or physical situations

it is ALL spiritual ----- things that work INSIDE them in their INNER man:

Eph 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus,

and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you,

making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,

may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;
that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,
and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,
according to the working of his mighty power,

Next, let's consider a couple of questions. Someone recently asked me if they should have a "Prayer CLOSET." I thought that we have a room called a bath-room, where we take a bath and relieve our bladder, etc. I thought that we also have a bed-room, where we go to sleep. We have a kitchen, where we cook food and eat.

Do We Need to have a Special, Particular PLACE to pray?

In "times past" Jesus encouraged people to have a prayer closet, in His sermon on the mount. He was not impressed with PUBLIC displays of prayer:

Matt 6:5-6 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, **when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret;** and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

But when we come to OUR instructions in the "dispensation of grace,"
WHERE Should We Pray ?

1 Tim. 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

*The answer from Paul's epistle to Timothy .. is very SIMPLE .. **Pray EVERYWHERE.***

Now, let's think about the question

WHEN Should We Pray ?

1 Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

That's another simple answer!
We ought to be communicating with God all the time.

We should be talking to God in our minds and hearts thinking about HIS will so we will have boldness to 'labor with God' (1 Cor. 3:9) in accomplishing His will which He has made known to us in the scriptures (Eph. 1:9).

God specifically says what His will is for ALL men:

1. **1 Tim. 2:4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

2. **Eph. 3:9** And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

In closing, let's look at a few more scriptures. The next 2 passages are 'companion passages.' They are similar, and they compliment each other in their likeness. Get both Col. chapter 4 and Eph. chapter 6.

*Paul taught the Colossians to constantly pray and be thankful. **He requested prayer that he would have boldness to spread the mystery even though he was already in prison for doing just that:***

Col. 4:2-4 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

That's what he also told the Ephesians to pray ALL the time. He asked them to pray for him also for the same thing he asked the Colossians to pray for:

Eph. 6:18-20 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,
20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Paul wanted people to pray for him to have BOLDNESS to give out the gospel of the grace of God. Keep that thought with the basic verse we gave earlier:

1 Tim. 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Finally, we'll close with the verse we began the study with. Hopefully this study has helped your understanding of the subject of prayer:

1 Cor. 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.