

DOES
PRAYER
REALLY
CHANGE
THINGS?

A black silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer, with their head bowed and hands clasped in front of their face. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, set against a background of a bright, hazy sky with sunbeams and a body of water in the foreground.

Paul's Prayer Request

Romans 15:14-33

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.



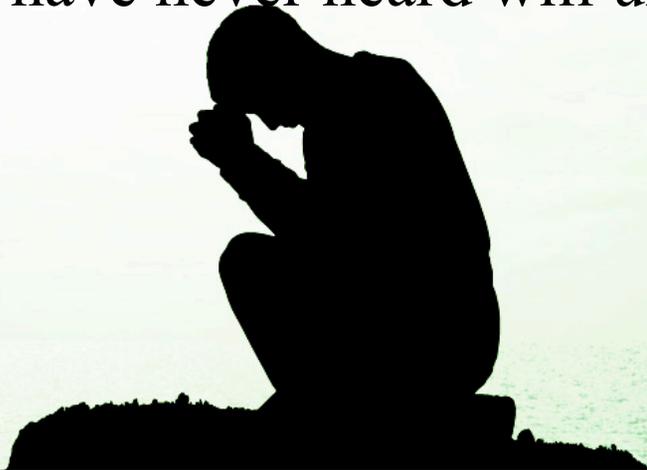
Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

- Paul indicated satisfaction with 'his brothers'
 - full of goodness,
 - filled with all knowledge, and
 - able to instruct one another.
- Paul reflected that he had written boldly
- Paul reaffirmed his ministry to the Gentiles



¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else’s foundation, ²¹ but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.”



Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

- Paul's pride is in Christ
- Signs and wonders by the Holy Spirit
- Ministry from Jerusalem to Illyricum
- Ministry is to preach where Christ is unknown



Paul's Trip to Rome

- Paul intends to move his ministry area
- Paul is on the way to Jerusalem
 - To present a financial gift
 - To promote unity
- Paul would then head to Rome then Spain



Paul Requests Prayer

³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.



Paul's Request Summary

- Appeal to pray for him
pray for:
- Protection from unbelievers
- Acceptance by the Jewish believers
- He might come with joy to Rome



Was Paul's Request Answered?

- Was he protected?
- Was he accepted by believers?
- Did he come to Rome with joy ?



What Should We Learn?

- Pray persistently and boldly asking for what we seek.
- Expect God's favorable answer to our requests.
- When requests seem to not be answered look for how God's working for us.



I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.



*A note written by a
confederate soldier during
the Civil War*

I got nothing that I asked for,
But everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself,
My unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men, most richly blessed.

