

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 12 (#912192)
WEEK 3 (912343)
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 12 – Ask People To Pray For You

TUESDAY

OPEN

How are you doing dear one? Are you having a hard time making it? Does truth not seem to be getting from your head into your life? Well let me ask you a question. Who is praying for you? Who is helping you through prayer so that you might be everything that God wants you to be and everything that you need to be? We’re going to look at the power of prayer and what Paul and God would pray for you.

PART ONE

Life can get pretty difficult. And what you and I need to know Beloved is that when it gets difficult we are not alone. There are people that are praying for us. As I was standing looking out the window I was praying and thinking about one of our workers that’s in a Muslim country that I cannot tell you

about. But he’s been spied out and the believers the Muslims that have come to know Jesus Christ have been spied out also. When they came to know Jesus Christ they knew that it may cost them their lives. He watched them struggle. He did not try to persuade them. But when they said to him you know, I could die and he went to say, but you may not die the checked him and said don’t say a word. And he didn’t say a word and finally that young Muslim man was on his face on the floor crying out to God and saying God, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. I believe that He is the Promised One. And I believe that He is the Savior of the world. And I want Him as my Savior. And if I live You’ve allowed me to live. If I die I know that I have eternal life with You. Well today we just got a message that these men are in danger. And we had been praying fervently here at Precept Ministries. The staff begins every day with prayer and we’ve been praying for him. And as I was praying I was thinking about what Paul said. We’re studying Ephesians, but I was thinking about what Paul said in Philippians chapter 1. He said “...I know...,” in verse 19, **“...that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of [Christ Jesus].”** (Philippians 1:19) He says **“According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ...even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”** (1:20) And then he tells you why. He says **“For...me, to live is Christ and to die [it] is gain.”** (1:21) Well we know that these people again, like many of our workers around the world is in danger. These people are in danger of losing their lives. But we also know and we also understand that we can help them with our prayers. This is what Paul is doing in Ephesians chapter 1. In Ephesians chapter 1 in verses 3 through 14 he comes forth with this eulogy of praise. And we have looked at it and we have taken it apart. And I want you to know we could have taken it apart even more but I didn’t want to lose you. But if you went on line to our website preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com and you downloaded the

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study guide it's there. It's free. It's yours to download. You know that there is more in that study guide than I'm able to give you here. But now in Ephesians we move from this eulogy of praise one long sentence from chapter 1, verse 3 through verse 14. Now we move to Paul's second long sentence. And Paul's second long sentence begins at verse 15 and goes all the way through verse 23. And in that long sentence what he's telling them is I am praying for you. You know what I want to ask you Beloved. Many of you are helping us take this program and put it around the world and put it into different languages so people can be taught the Word of God chapter by chapter and verse by verse so that they can discover truth for themselves. But as you do that I'm going to ask you to help us through your prayers and to cry to God and to help these dear workers of many countries where our people put their lives on the line every day. And the reason that they do it is because they are absolutely convinced that these people that they're ministering to have to know truth for themselves, that they have to study the Bible inductively, that they have to learn what you and I are learning, only they learn it in greater depth how to observe and interpret and apply the Word of God and how to go through it book-by-book so they know the whole counsel of God. It is so important. And more and more as you study through Ephesians you're going to see for yourself how important it is that we know the whole counsel of God. So what does Paul pray? Well in chapter 1 of Ephesians in verse 15 and let's go to it. Paul prays in verse 15, **"For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints." (1:15)** He says, I **"...do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers." (Ephesians 1:16)** Now as we look at that one of the things that we teach you to do is mark key repeated words in the text or key repeated words throughout the Word of God. And the way I mark "prayer" is simply by drawing the shape of a vase and I started with two hands that were like cupped out and then went up. But I think about God; he keeps all

of our prayers. And He keeps them before His throne. And we know in Revelation that when that glorious day comes and when Jesus begins to break the seals and take possession of this earth when it is the summing up of all things in Christ as we saw in Ephesians 1, when He gets ready to come and to take His throne and to rule and reign on the face of this earth, that when He does that, the prayers of the saints in heaven are poured out on the earth. This is how important and precious your prayers are to God. It’s hard to understand. It’s hard for me to get to get a handle around the sovereignty of God, that fact that God is sovereign that He rules over all that He wounds and He heals and He kills and He makes alive. He creates good and He creates adversity. He’s the Lord that does all these things. It’s hard for me to get that in my mind and then think of how our prayers can help. And yet Paul talks about you helping me through your prayers. And so now what Paul is going to do is Paul is going to show us that he helps them through their prayers. So as I read this when we come to any reference to “prayer” or when we come to any reference to “petition” what you need to do is you need to make that mark. Now you also need to mark “love.” Now “love” was used for the first time in Ephesians in verse 4. And it was referring to the love of God. And when I mark “love” and it relates to God I draw a red heart and I color the inside yellow because yellow’s my color for God because He’s light and in Him is no darkness. But when I’m talking about just ordinary “love,” our love for others I just draw a red heart and I color it red. And so what we have here is in verse 15 we have the second reference to love. And he says “**For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you....**” (Ephesians 1:15a) Now I’ve gone there because I’ve got to have you mark one more word again, all right, and that’s the word “faith.” And time I come to what God says or God says I do this in the Old Testament a lot, or faith because faith come by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, then what I do is I draw the shape of a little book. I do that in purple and then I color it green on the inside. And so this is

the way I would have this verse marked. **“For this reason I...,”** and that’s colored in blue because this is the author, **“...I, too having heard of the faith...,”** a book over faith, **“...in the Lord Jesus, which exists among you...,”** and that’s colored orange because remember we colored the references to the recipients all in orange, **“...and your...,”** colored orange, **“...love...,”** red heart, **“...for all the saints.” (1:15)** Verse 16: **“Do not cease giving thanks for you....”** I’m giving thanks for you because I have heard of your faith. And I am giving thanks for you because I have heard of your love for the saints. Those things are very commendable and those things are the basic ingredients of what Christianity is all about, faith and love. **“...but the greatest of these...,”** as we know from 1 Corinthians 13, **“...is love.” (13:13b)** But we are to believe God and we are to walk according to His word. And if we believe Him and we walk according to His word then the love of God which was put in us when we received the Holy Spirit that love because the fruit of the Spirit is love, pours out through us on to others. And he says I’m hearing about that and **“[I] don’t cease [to give] thanks [to God] for you...,” (Ephesians 1:16a)** for those things. But then he says, **“...while making mention of you in my prayers.” (1:16b)** Here was the busy apostle Paul, here was the apostle Paul that made tents during the day. And many times when he got into a city because he didn’t want to be a burden on the others he made tents and then at night he ministered or he did his tent making around the time of his ministry. And it was because he didn’t want to be a financial burden on anyone, which shows you one thing that Paul didn’t live in great luxury, because everything about Paul was there for the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What an example, what an example. This is something that we need to take notice of. And what is he praying? Well I’ve marked “prayers.” I’ve marked “my prayers” so my is in the color of the author and so I know as I look at Paul and Paul says **“Be [an imitator] of me...,”** in 1 Corinthians 11:1, **“...[even] as I...am of Christ.”** I know hey, this is what I should be doing. So Paul becomes my example.

And what is he going to pray? We’ll see right after this important announcement.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved of God. You know this morning I was on my knees praying for you and praying that the truths of this passage would really take hold in your heart. So Paul prayed for those in Ephesus, I’m praying for you, you that are scattered all around the world. And what did he pray? Well look at verse 17. He prayed, **“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory....” (Ephesians 1:17a)** I mean He is the Father of all and you’re going to see this in Ephesians chapter 3. Every name and every family is named after God. He’s the Father of glory. So he says I’m praying **“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory...,” (Ephesians 1:17a)** and when he says **“the Father of glory,”** He’s the Father of all the glory that belongs to Him. But listen very carefully, when Jesus was born when He came into the world and it says and the Word became flesh, **“...the Word was God,” “...the Word was with God...,” (John 1:1)** John chapter 1 verse 14 now. **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we [beheld] His glory, [the] glory as of the only begotten [of] the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)** So it could say, **“...God...,”** the Father **“...of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory...,” (Ephesians 1:17b)** the glory that you have seen in My Son in His life and His death and His burial and His resurrection. He says, **“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.” (1:17)** He says this is what I’m praying. [“I want you to have the spirit of wisdom and knowledge of the revelation of the Father of the Son of the Holy Spirit of what it means to belong to Him.”] (Paraphrased, Ephesians 1:17) You say well how do I get that spirit? And it’s not talking about capital “S”. How do

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I get that spirit of wisdom? How do I get that spirit of revelation of the knowledge of Him? Well you get it through the Holy Spirit. And you get it through the Word of God. Remember we saw that in Ephesians chapter 1 in verse 13 and 14 he says “you” the Gentiles, “you” in Ephesus **“...having also believed....”** The first Gentile to believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ was Cornelius and it came eight years after Pentecost, eight years after Pentecost, the first Gentile. And as I was praying for you this morning and I’m thinking about the past programs I thought I think I forgot to tell them that the Jews were saved first and that the first Gentiles weren’t saved until eight years after Pentecost. So if I forgot to tell you I’m telling you now. And we’ll go over it again. But when you got saved you got the Holy Spirit. Remember the Holy Spirit comes to dwell inside of you. And when He comes to dwell inside of you, the Holy Spirit becomes your teacher. The Holy Spirit takes the things that belong to God and He reveals them to you. And so when he’s praying and he’s asking God that they might have the spirit of wisdom and revelation the unveiling of truth in the knowledge of Him he’s saying I’m praying that you more and more and more will have the eyes of your heart enlightened. Watch what he goes on to say in verse 18. **“I pray...,”** and you would mark “pray” there again, **“...that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened....” (Ephesians 1:18b)** Now remember to the Jew the heart and the mind or in that day that the heart and the mind were interchangeable. And so when they were talking about the heart they were talking about this mind and the way that you think. As a man thinketh in his heart, you’ll read. As a man thinketh in his mind is what we would say today. But they understood and you understand. So what happens in our mind? In 1 Corinthians chapter 2 he’s talking about [that we haven’t received] in verse 12 [the spirit of the world, but we’ve received the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know, k-n-o-w, so that we may know the things that are freely given to us...] (Paraphrased 1 Corinthians 2:12) Well God has given you wisdom. And God has given you revelation and the

knowledge of Him. But it's things that have to be appropriated. And so remember when we opened the program and I said are you having a hard time, does it seem like truth can't get into your head or can't get from your head into your heart? Are people praying for you? See he's praying. Paul is praying that that truth that the wisdom of God that the knowledge of God will be unveiled. That's what revelation means. That's what the book of Revelation is all about. It's the apocalypses. It's the unveiling of what is going to happen, the things that are supposed to take place very shortly. All right now, verse 13 he says in 1 Corinthians chapter 2 **"Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom...."** (2:13a) He says I'm not writing human words here. I'm using the language of man, but these are divine words. **"...But those taught by the Spirit...."** (2:13b) In other words I am being led by the Spirit of God to write what I write because these are God's words. **"...Combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man...."** (1 Corinthians 2:13-14a) Now what is a natural man? You're just like you were born. But when you're born again, when you are born of the Spirit as John chapter 3 says, **"you're born again"** (John 3:3) and you're born of water, physical birth and you are born of the Spirit then the Spirit moves inside of you and you're no longer a natural man. But now let's look and let's see what he says about the natural man. **"But a natural man does not accept the things of... God...they are foolishness to him...."** (1 Corinthians 2:14a) You believe that crazy stuff, you believe there's only one way to heaven. You are so bigoted. You are so narrow minded. And don't tell me that I can't live the way I want to. Don't tell me I can't be immoral. Don't tell me, don't tell me, don't tell me. It's because they don't believe God. And so he goes on to say **"...They're foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them...."** Duh, **"...they are spiritually appraised."** (1 Corinthians 2:14b) They are spiritually learned. And it says in verse 15 **"But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one."** (1 Corinthians 2:15) You don't let the world sit in

judgment on you. Why? Because they’re natural and they don’t understand the things of God. They have the wisdom of the world but not the wisdom of God. And it says in verse 16: And here’s the key, “[For he] **for who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him...?**” Have you known God’s mind that you can tell God what to do and how to behave? No. He says **“But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:16b)** So what was Paul praying for them? He says I want you; I want you to have the **“...spirit of wisdom and...revelation in the knowledge of Him.”**

(Ephesians 1:17b) This is my prayer for you today. And so I want you to know how much I appreciate you, how grateful I am to God for you. I thank God that in His sovereignty you found this program. And I thank God that you’re one of those that is not content to be a babe and just live on milk for the rest of your life, but that you want to mature. You don’t want to be a carnal Christian, but you want to be mature. You want to grow up and I thank you for every message that you give when you call into order something. I thank you. So may I also urge you to pray for me that I’ll have the spirit of wisdom and revelation and the knowledge of Him as I pray for you? Remember you are Beloved.