

The Epistle to the Ephesians

“United by a Moment”

Keep on Praying

Eph. 6:18 – 24

A. Prayer as a Missional Strategy (v. 18-19)

- Pray for each other.
- Pray for kingdom priorities.
- Prayer is crucial because ultimately this is a battle between God and the devil.

Tim Chester quote: *“We have been learning more about our reliance on God in mission and therefore the need to make prayer central to our mission strategy. This is a truth we all know in our heads, but our practice so often reflects an assumption that our actions are what matters.”*

It is worth asking why we do not make prayer central. We suspect it reflects our desire to be in control. If my strategy is to persuade people with carefully constructed argument then I am in control (and if I am not then I can read a book to acquire better argument). But if my strategy is to pray for miracles, dreams, open hearts then I am not in control. If I pray with an unbeliever for a specific need then I am not control of the outcome. But this scary reliance on God is precisely what we want to cultivate in the life of our network. This is a strategy that lets God be the primary agent of mission; that lets God be God.”

B. Living for a purpose greater than ourselves. (v. 20)

- Notice: Paul does not ask for prayer that he would get out of prison, but rather that he would be blessed to be an effective witness – a Christ-honoring ambassador.
- What would the kingdom of God look like, if it came to this city?

C. Little people who are big (v. 21-22)

At the conclusion of his grand letter to the Ephesians, Paul mentions a man named Tychicus who is also referred to elsewhere in the New Testament. Tychicus is not a name that would come to mind when people are asked to identify the spiritual giants of the Bible. Likewise, many of us feel as if we are “little” in relation to the “big” people of the Bible, like Paul. However, Paul himself clearly states in Ephesians and throughout his letters that the work of the gospel is contingent upon lots of people who are faithful to God and, therefore, they are equally “big”.

D. Four Great Words (v. 23-24)

- Peace
- Love
- Faith
- Grace