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#### (context of 1 Timothy)

## ✓ Ephesus was a multiracial, commercial center with a culturally diverse church. Ephesians 2

"11 Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands—12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now **in Christ Jesus** you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

✓ Diversity usually creates tension.

# 2

### 1 Timothy 2

"1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time. 7 And for this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth."

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# Interpretive Paraphrase

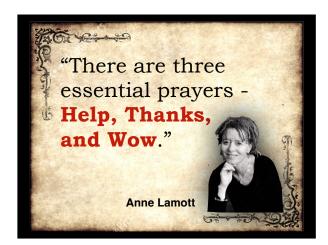
### 1 Timothy 2

"In addressing conflicts, I recommend that your ministry start with prayer, both petitions and gratitude for all people, especially those in authority. God's will is that we be able to live in peace, showing and telling of the one God who is Lord of all and one mediator between God and humanity, the Messiah, Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for both Jew and Gentile, as made clear in these later days. Trust me, I am telling the truth because I am the most unlikely person to preach grace and faith to the Gentiles given the fact that I formerly persecuted them."

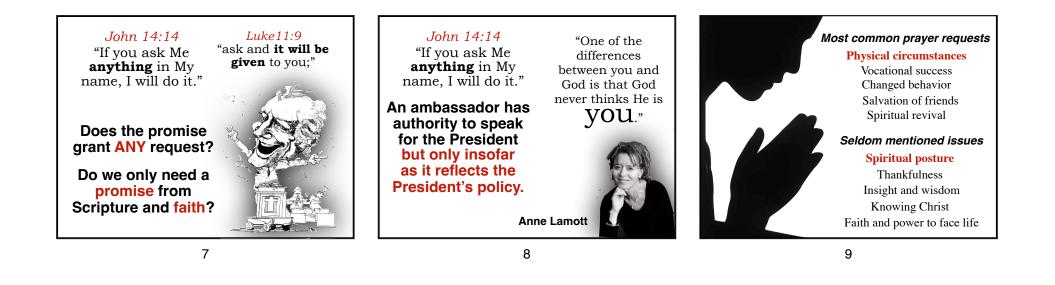
# **General reflections**

- $\checkmark$  Note that prayer is a priority in ministry.
- ✓ Prayer should include both petitions and gratitude for all involved, especially those who have authority to shape the setting.
- ✓ Petitions for civil peace is God's pathway for the Gospel to be presented and heard.
- ✓ Our agenda for the state is that it allows us to quietly show and tell our story.
- ✓ We leave the results to God. Our focus is on Our responsibility not God's.

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# Why do so many prayers seem to go unanswered?

James 4

"2 . . . You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.""

It is possible to have a Scriptural promise and strong faith canceled by a selfish motive.





1 John 5

"14 And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."



### Does "His will" refer to • circumstances,

- pray style,
- or our inner spirit?

### Romans 8

"26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness: for we do not know how to prav as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

> The "will of God" / "mind of the Spirit" may not be circumstances (O.C.), so much as our response to them (N.C.)!

> > 13

### 1 Peter 5

"6 Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about vou."



to change our circumstances but rather to alter our "anxiety" in response to them?

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- Too often, we link peace with worldly circumstances,
- and petition God to change worldly circumstances to bring us peace,
- suggesting that God is simply an altar boy in the temple of worldliness.



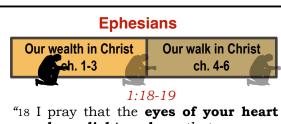
1 Peter 5:7 "Peace I leave with you: My peace I give to you; **not as** the world gives, do I give to **you**. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

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# Paul's prayers 1 Thess.3:9-13 2 Thess 1.1-12

Phil.1:9-11 Eph.1:15-23 Eph.3:14-21 Eph.6:18-20 Col.1:9-14

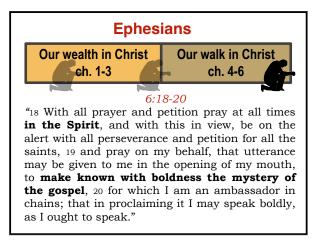


may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His **power** toward us who believe. . . ."



"14 For this reason. I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every **family** in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to **comprehend** with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God."

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Colossians 1

"9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to **pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**,

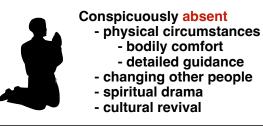
<sup>10</sup> so that you may (in order to) walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."

What we need to know is the love, power, and Spirit of Christ, more than specific decisions and directions.

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What do Paul's prayers emphasize?

- 1. Thankfulness
- 2. Renewed inner life
- 3. Godly living



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| Paul's agenda in prayer                  |        |        |      |       |      |         |
|--|--------|--------|------|-------|------|---------|
| Text                                     | Thanks | Wisdom | Walk | Faith | Love | Courage |
| 1 Thess.                                 |        |        |      |       |      |         |
| 2 Thess.                                 |        |        |      |       |      |         |
| Phil.1                                   |        |        |      |       |      |         |
| Eph.1                                    |        |        |      |       |      |         |
| Eph.3                                    |        |        |      |       |      |         |
| Col.1                                    |        |        |      |       |      |         |
| Eph.6                                    |        |        |      |       |      |         |
| Outer circumstances are not on the list. |        |        |      |       |      |         |

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# "PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT"

Paul is concerned that disciples are:

- enlightened in heavenly hope.
- grounded in loving relationships.
- persevering in life's struggles.
- courageous in faithful witness.

This is "God's will".

# Note what is not on Paul's prayer list

- Hopes that are centered in this life.
- Agendas that are "self centered".
- Escape from physical suffering.
- Escape from spiritual struggle.
- Things that are only God's business.

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# What about praying for PHYSICAL healing?

- This is not a pastoral solution but an evangelistic SIGN of spiritual authority.
- Remember that the priority is not physical but SPIRITUAL healing.
  - As a special gift of the Spirit, healing was not normally an agenda for common prayer.

• If our hope is in physical healing in this life, Satan wins.

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# Two unanswered petitions

#### 2 Corinthians 12:8

"8 Concerning this (thorn in the flesh) I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

### Luke 22:42

"Father, **if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me**; yet not My will, but Thine be done."

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# How to pray for others when you don't know what to "petition God for".

- That they would see the inheritance, hope, and power they have in Christ.
- That they would know and display God's love for His family.
- That they would persevere through the trials of life.
- That they would be faithful ambassadors for Christ.

# Two things that have changed in my walk with God as I have grown older.

- My expectations -
- from my priorities to God's priorities.
- from a need for circumstances to change to my "inner response to" life's issues.

### My petitions -

- from outer control to inner peace & power.
- from "more self discipline" to "more faith".
- from changing outer circumstances and others to changing my inner heart,

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