

Sermon Title: A prayer for 2019 Date: 12-30-18

- **Welcome to last Sunday of 2018. Finished up Romans 8, moved through celebration of Advent and Christmas... as we look into new year, with the theme of God's provision of Christ fully in mind, what should be our focus today?**
- **As I look at things around, my overwhelming sense... we need to PRAY!**
- **But how?...**

As we prepare to enter this new year, how is God- through His Word- leading us to pray?

- **A powerful way to answer this question is how HAS HE ALREADY led us to pray, through his word?**
- **7 prayers from NT... use this as guide in coming year**
 - **Much more in each one that what I'm emphasizing... you may be different.**
 - **For each, what is your response? How is God working to answer this prayer in YOUR LIFE? In other words, how will you- under leadership of the Spirit- participate in how God answers this prayer?**
- **SO- the prayer God is leading us to pray is...**

✠ A prayer that we may **KNOW GOD MORE.**

☞ Ephesians 1:15-19 *For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

What is my response?

- **If we sincerely pray that we will KNOW God more, that means we will be PRESENT to Him more. LORD, grow in my the desire to KNOW YOU! Paul in Philippians 3... "I Want to KNOW CHRIST"**

✠ A prayer that we experience the **FULLNESS** of His **SPIRIT.**

Ephesians 3:14-19 *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

What is my response?

- **Interesting prayer, "be filled to the measure"... because we ARE filled with the spirit. The thought here is that we EXPERIENCE the fullness of the presence.**
- **As we sincerely seek to KNOW GOD, to experience the fullness of his Spirit, a response of our heart will be "what is occupying my mind that is keeping me from experiencing God's presence?"**
- **Romans 12... "Be transformed by the renewing of your MIND"....**

✠ A prayer that we experience the blessing of being **HIS BODY.**

☞ Philemon 4-7 *I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.*

What is my response?

- **Choice to participate in His body! Not just showing up at a church service, but engaging, choice to participate... God, how will you use me, grow me, and bless me through my participation in the work of your body?**

† A prayer for **WISDOM** and **DISCERNMENT**.

☞ Philippians 1:9-11 *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to **discern what is best** and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.*

- **Amazing connections! LOVE- connected to KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING- connected to DISCERNMENT- connected to PURITY/HOLINESS- connected to FRUIT- connected to GOD being glorified!**

What is my response?

- **Lord, lead me to love. Look for opportunities...**
- **Lord, grow in my desire for your word! I choose to...**
- **My perspective- why I seek wisdom! My need is not the end.... Lord, give me wisdom not just for my circumstances, but so I may grow and that you may be glorified!**

† A prayer that God will **WORK** through **US**.

☞ Colossians 1:9-14 *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order **that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work**, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and **joyfully giving thanks to the Father**, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

What is my response?

- **Believe and expect the promise of Ephesians 2:10- “we are God’s workmanship... works prepared in advance...”**
- **Expect for God to use you. LORD! Grow in me a heart to expect- to desire to see the opportunities you promise to give me to participate in your work!**
- **WHEN GOD ACCOMPLISHES HIS WORK THROUGH US, he will be GLORIFIED IN US.**

† A prayer that God will be **GLORIFIED** in us.

☞ 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 *With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. **We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

What is my response?

- **Obedience! Desire for God to reveal himself through us, conscious ‘setting of our mind’ that places God at the center of our desire... SINCERELY pray... Lord, glorify yourself through me**

† A prayer for **MATURITY**.

☞ Colossians 4:12 *Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.*

What is my response?

- **LET GOD GROW US!**
- **Proactively Trust God in his work to change us, transform us, mature us**
- **James 1... you will trials, will grow perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that that you will be MATURE... don't cut God off from how he is growing us in our experiences of life!**
- **ACT upon desire God gives you to know his word. To participate in his body. To serve, to love, to be generous of heart....**

- **If we were to try and sum these all up in a single thought, it may be "LORD, I WANT TO KNOW YOU AS MY LIFE. I PLACE YOU AS MY CENTER, MY FIRST PLACE PASSION. LORD, grow me, I surrender to how you will work. LORD, work in me, lead me to put my flesh out of power, so that I may know- experience- you as my LIFE!**

- **This is message of communion. When Jesus broke the bread, gave the cup- new covenant- He was saying... HERE IS ALL OF WHO I AM. RECEIVE IT! RECEIVE ME as your life.**

- **Today, as we remember and receive, may we pray that this year, we would come to experience the fullness of the picture we see in Communion- the miracle- and exceedingly practical gift- of Christ as our life**