

# POWER IN PRAYER



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# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of November 4, 2018

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that our prayers should be shaped with thanksgiving and supplications for a deeper understanding of His authority. How is Paul's prayer similar to Jesus' prayer in John 17?
- 2 Variations of this prayer can be found throughout Paul's letters. Why do you think this is the case?
- 3 How often do you give prayers of thanksgiving? How often do you pray for a deeper understanding of God? What keeps you from praying this way?

## DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 Looking at the passages below, how would you describe the authority of Christ?

How would you describe the life of a person who lives with a complete awareness of Christ's authority?

Are you living this type of life? Explain. If not, what changes can you make to better live your life in this manner?

**Psalm 8:5-6, ESV** – <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

**Phil 2:9-11, ESV** – <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**2** What role does the Holy Spirit play in the imparting of wisdom to people? Why is this significant?

Compare and contrast the differences between the “natural person” and the “spiritual person”.

God’s word is clear that surrender to the Holy Spirit is key to receiving wisdom and understanding. In what ways do you surrender to the Holy Spirit? In what ways do you still need to surrender to the Holy Spirit?

**1 Cor 2:10-16, ESV** – <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

**3** Based on the passage below, describe the key components of Paul’s prayer for the Colossian believers?

Do your prayers consistently include these components? Explain.

**Col 1:9-14, ESV** – <sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## TAKING IT HOME

Paul prays for believers to have an awareness of God's power and superiority to all other powers. How should a believer live in light of the superiority of His power? As you think through the sermon and this week's study, how does God's power compel you to live your life?

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Isaiah 11:2  
Acts 26:18  
Rom 5  
1 Cor 15:27  
Col 3:12-17  
2 Tim 1:3-18