

Prayerfulness

Paul as an example of prayerfulness

1. Paul began his epistle in a spirit of prayer.
2. Prayerfulness was part and parcel of the life and ministry of Paul.
3. The spirit of prayer was reflected in how he shared his prayers with the brethren.
4. It is this spirit of prayer that we want to cultivate for ourselves also.

Different types of prayer

1. The practice of thanksgiving

- a. The grace to give thanks Phil 1:3
 - i. “eucharistéo” .. where we get the English word ...eucharist...
 - ii. Made up of charis...grace....eu...good...good grace
 - iii. Meaningto be grateful, giving thanks because of God’s good grace given.
 - iv. This spirit of thanksgiving stems from the grace of God
- b. Reflecting a personal and close relationship with God
 - i. The giving of thanks is directed personally to God
 - ii. Through a personal relationship, we are led to be prayerful and thankful
- c. The basis of thanksgiving
 - i. The basis of Paul’s thanksgiving to God is the relationship and understanding that he had with the brethren
 - ii. Every time he remembers the brethren, he would give thanks to God for them.
 - iii. Appreciating the need for a basis for our thanksgiving

2. The practice of making intercession

a. Intercessory prayers are humble but strong petitions Phil 1:4

i δεήσει ... humble petition

ii. The humble petitions of Paul was the means by which he would make strong requests

iii. Consciousness of making these humble requests when he prayed

b. They are prayers that we make on behalf of

i. The brethren is the basis by which the prayers are made

ii. Paul made these intercessions on behalf of the brethren

c. The manner in which he interceded

i. Grace is related to thanksgiving and to joy.

ii. Intercession was made with joy rather than grief or sorrow.

d. The practice of intercessory prayers

i. Prayers are to be made...to be specially crafted

ii. Making prayer on account of the brethren

The challenge to give thanks and to pray

1. Cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving through the grace of God

2. Develop a close relationship with God in prayer

3. The challenge to have a heart of concern to intercede on behalf of others.