"A MODEL PRAYER LIST"

(How to Intercede for Others)
Colossians 1:9-12

INTRODUCTION:

***When you intercede for other believers, pray as Paul did!**

What did Paul pray for? Follow this model prayer list:

I. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD FULLY KNOW GOD (v. 9)
(Pray for the spiritual "mind" of the saints)

A. Intercede for their spiritual wisdom (to do God's will)

B. Intercede for their spiritual understanding (to know God's Word)

II. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD FAITHFULLY WALK WITH GOD (v. 10)
(Pray for the spiritual "feet" of the saints)

A. Intercede for a fruitful walk

B. Intercede for a growing walk

III. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD BE FORTIFIED WITH STRENGTH BY GOD (v. 11)
(Pray for the spiritual "muscle" of the saints)

A. Intercede for their strength to endure

B. Intercede for their strength to remain joyful and thankful

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INTRODUCTION:

Definition "intercessory Prayer" -

To "intercede" is to meet with God, and to plead on behalf of others.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us - Rom. 8:27.

Jesus Christ intercedes for us - Rom. 8:34.
Lk. 22:32c - "I have prayed for them"
Heb. 7:25 - "He ever liveth to make intercession for them"

As Baptists, we believe in the "priesthood of the believer" - we all can approach God on behalf of each other.

Intercessory prayers are found throughout the Scriptures:

Abraham prayed for Abimelech (Gen. 20:7).
Moses prayed for Israel (Ex. 32:11-14; Num. 14:11-21).
Moses prayed for Aaron (Deut. 9:20).
Samuel prayed for Israel (I Sam. 7:5-8 *I Sam. 12:23)
David prayed for Israel (Ps. 25:22, 28:9).
Job prayed for his family (Job 1:5) and friends (42:8, 10).
Israel prayed for Babylon (Jer. 29:7).
Daniel prayed for Israel (Dan. 9:3-19).
Jesus Christ prayed for all believers. (Jn. 17)

Whom should we intercede for?
"For all men" (I Tim. 2:1)

--Political leaders (v. 2-3)
(Mayor, governor, senators, President)

--Unsaved people (v. 4)
Paul prayed for his people Israel to be saved (Rom. 10:1).

--Your enemies (Mt. 5:44)
EX: Stephen Acts 7:60 - "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge"

--Especially pray for fellow-believers (Eph. 6:18)
Pray for physical and spiritual healing (Ja. 5:14-f)

Why should we intercede?

"Help, LORD, for the godly man ceaseth, for the faithful fail from among the children of men" (Ps. 12:1).

None of us is exempt from our need for other's prayers.

Prayer support is needed even by spiritual leaders.

Paul needed it - Rom. 15:30-32, II Cor. 1:11, Eph. 6:19-20; I Th. 5:25, II Th. 3:1 (cp. Heb. 13:18).

The only One who never needed prayer was Jesus Christ.

"Pray for us" (Heb. 13:18).

--Colossians 1:9

V. 9

"For this cause" - Because of the report of Epaphras about their "faith in Christ" (v. 11) and subsequent "love in the Spirit" (v. 8).

"Since the day we heard it" - Many well-meaning Christians today pray hard and long for unsaved relatives to come to Christ, and then stop praying for them once they are saved. Actually, Paul prayed hardest and longest for the saved, those who knew and loved Christ. Don't neglect your priority prayer requests -- to pray for God's children and those of the household of faith.

Note: Paul never personally met the Colossians, yet he prayed for them with such fervency! What love for God and His children!

"Do not cease" - We have not stopped. New converts need the most persistent and fervent prayer support. Paul was aware of the devil and his attacks on young believers.

"Desire" = to desire of God; to ask of God.

Prayer "cliches" are often unclear, vague, non-specific requests -

--"Lord, bless the missionaries, my pastor, etc. (bless them how?)

--"Be with Mrs._____" (if they are saved, the Lord is already with them - Heb. 13:5).

***When you intercede for other believers, pray as Paul did!**

--What did Paul pray for? Follow this model prayer list:

I. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD FULLY KNOW GOD (v. 9)

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"That" - introduces the content and purpose of Paul's prayer

"Be filled" - passive; only God can give such a filling - therefore, prayer and dependence is essential.

"To be filled" with such thorough knowledge of God's will is to have it pervading our thoughts, affections, and purposes, and plans (Nicholson, Kregel, Colossians, p. 39)

"Knowledge" - direct knowledge
a complete knowledge
a full knowledge

The secret to know God's will is to know His Word.

A. Intercede for their spiritual wisdom (to do God's will)

"Wisdom" - in O.T. = applying the knowledge of God's will to life's situations

B. Intercede for their spiritual understanding (to know God's Word)

"Understanding" - perception; insight; seeing the whole picture; to be able to put together the facts of God's Word and to draw Biblical conclusions.

In a similar prayer for the Ephesians, Paul prayed for the following:

1. We all need to fully know God's salvation (Eph. 1:17-19)

    1) Confidence in God's salvation (v. 18a)
    2) Completeness of God's salvation (v. 18b)
    3) Capability of God's salvation (v. 19)

2. We all need to fully know God's love (Eph. 3:17=19)

II. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD FAITHFULLY WALK WITH GOD (v. 10)
(Pray for the spiritual "feet" of the saints)

"Walk worthy" -

"Walk" = to live your life

"Worthy" - to live a life that conforms to the holiness of God. To live a life that matches His standards; that is equal to what He deserves.

"All pleasing" = to gain God's smile on their lives.

"Now I pray to God that ye do no evil...that ye should do that which is honest" (II Cor. 13:7).

A. Intercede for their a fruitful walk

"Being fruitful" - continuous fruit-bearing

B. Intercede for a growing walk

"Increasing" = to grow in the same spiritual knowledge mentioned in v. 9. We grow as we bear fruit!

Note: the dative phrase "in the knowledge of God" could be:

1) Locative dative - to grow in spiritual knowledge

2) Instrumental dative - to grow by gaining spiritual knowledge

III. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD BE FORTIFIED WITH STRENGTH BY GOD (v. 11)
(Pray for the spiritual "muscle" of the saints)

(See Eph. 3:14-16)

"Strengthened" - continually being made strong by God (passive).

The word points to ability or power.

"According to His glorious power" - Our power comes from God's power. Without Him we can do nothing! (Jn. 15:5)

A. Intercede for their strength to endure

"Patience" = the ability to "remain under" pressure without giving up (without quitting or running)

"It's always too soon to quit."
"By perseverance the snail reached the ark"
--Spurgeon

"Longsuffering" - the ability to endure "much heat" without blowing up (without retaliation).

B. Intercede for their strength to remain joyful and thankful

"With joyfulness" - means that Paul prayed that the Colossians would endure and remain patient while not losing their joy in doing so.

V. 12

"Giving thanks" - a continuation of what Paul meant by "joy." (v. 11)

He prayed that the Colossians would be thankful to God who made them "meet" (qualified) to receive a portion of the saints inheritance which is in light (i.e. in Heaven; where God, who is Light, dwells - cp. I Jn. 1:5;
I Tim. 6:16)

CONCLUSION:

Note: The Characteristics of Paul's Prayer -

1. He prayed for spiritual blessings, not mere material or physical things.

2. He did not pray that they would have some new additional spiritual experience; but that they would come to realize the blessings that were already theirs.

3. He prayed that the Colossians would have a balance of knowing right and doing right and being right.

Note the order:
Knowledge (v. 9) ------- Walk (v. 10) -------- Strength (v. 11)

No one can walk right unless they know the truth. And strength is a result of both knowing and walking right.

"Oh that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbor!"
(Job 16:21)