

Introduction:

- We have been looking at the topic of healing for the past three months on Wednesday nights. I trust you are not getting bored or frustrated. I remember reading about John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Church movement, how he taught on healing for over a year each Sunday morning. Then boom, it started happening!
- We are seeing a few healing here and there and Praise be to God they are real! But I am still looking for that place where my faith moves sickness out other people's lives.
- I want to look at three prayers that Paul prays for the Ephesian church. They are prayers that come from the heart of man who comes not with just wise and persuasive words but with demonstration of the Spirit's power.

I. I Pray Constantly

A. *"I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly,"* (Ephesians 1:16, NLT)

B. Notice that Paul prays constantly.

1. Constantly simply means that it is an on going thing. He does not pray once and forget about them. He is thinking about them all the time and every time he does he prays for them.
 2. What causes this kind of constant activity of prayer? For Paul it was personal! When it becomes personal to us we are really motivated to pray.
 - a) I think the most powerful answer is love. *"Either way, Christ's love controls (compels NKJV) us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life."* (2 Corinthians 5:14, NLT) Compel - Gr. is to overpower, to lock up. "We can't help but be concerned for the love of God has overpowered us concerning you." It is the sound of "love sickness."
 - b) He wants to see them successful/mature in the faith. He wants to see them come to the full knowledge of God. He wants them to experience and to know that God that He has come to know. He wants them to come to the maturity of the faith. *"For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you."* (1 Corinthians 4:15, NLT)
 - c) He was burdened. *"Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches."* (2 Corinthians 11:28, NLT) Gr. merimna- concern or anxiety. Used by Jesus when He says "do not worry." Mt 6:25ff; 6:31; Lk 8:14; 1 Pet 5:7. Paul had reason for concern.
 - (1) There were those who were out to kill/persecute Christians.
 - (2) There were those who taught another Gospel-deceivers.
 - (3) There was the personal challenge of life. Food, clothing, shelter.
 - d) Constantly means it is ongoing.
 3. The other reason his prayer is because of the constant remembrance of what God has already done in their lives.
 - a) He has already seen God activity in these people's lives personally.
 - b) He has already seen God activity in the city. Remember this is the place that was the darkest spiritually that Paul had ever been in. Yet in Ephesus, he see the power of God move on the hearts of 12 men who are filled with the Holy Spirit, and later sees God so powerfully move in the city that riots break out because no one wants to buy idols anymore. The people and city have a God connection in his heart.
- C. I want to pray constantly because I want to see others
1. Reach maturity in Christ so that the image of God is visible in them spirit soul and body.
 2. I want to carry the burden of the church in my heart. I want what Jesus wants.
 3. I want to love well. I want the love of Christ conformed in me so that I love others with the same passion as He loves.
 4. I pray to invoke the presence of God in other peoples lives. That their faith would be encouraged, that their bodies would be healed, and that they would testify of what God has done for them.

II. I Pray For Your Heart to Be Flooded With Light

- A. *“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.”* (Ephesians 1:18, NLT)
- B. Three insights to Paul’s second prayer. It is a prayer of revelation. A prayer that Paul prays constantly is that the heart of the Ephesians would be flooded with light. It is the illumination of the heart by the Holy Spirit so that we understand spiritual things of God.
1. Eyes - *ophthalmic* - to see, to perceive.
 - a) God of this world has blinded their eyes. 2 Cor 3:14; *“Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.”* (2 Corinthians 4:4, NLT)
 - b) Remove the stupor. *“As the Scriptures say, “God has put them into a deep sleep. To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear.””* (Romans 11:8, NLT)
 2. Understand - *Noeo* - to know, to direct one’s mind to, understand. *“To acknowledge that God’s creative will is the basis of all reality is to think in terms of faith. Faith sees that the invisible is the true reality, but this reality is the reality of salvation.”* TWBNT
 - a) many times it is connected to the *kardia* heart. The *Kardia* was the main street thru the heart of a city. The whole life of the city was found there.
 - b) Paul is praying that the main thoroughfare of our life be flooded with light so that we would have understanding. Clear perception so that we would know. What should we know?
 - (1) We should know that God is bigger than anything we face.
 - (2) We should know that God is our healer.
 3. Enlightened - *phos, photizeo* - light, illumination.
 - a) Ps 27:1 the Lord is my light and my salvation.
 - b) Ps 119 your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. To keep me from trip and provide me site to stay on the path.
 - c) Ps 36:9 For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see.
- C. Paul wants us flooded with the understanding of who He is to us and who we are to Him. The person that has that, all things become possible. So we want to be praying that those we administer healing to will ‘see’ so that when we pray they are have breakthrough! We want that for ourselves to that when we pray sickness bows before us.

III. I Pray You Will Understand God’s Power

- A. *“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power”* (Ephesians 1:19, NLT)
- B. He wants us to understand (everything we just looked at) He wants us to understand: hyperballon megathos dunamis! Just fun to say!
1. Hyperballon - to go beyond, surpass, excel, immeasurable.
 2. megathos - great, big, great big! Jehovah mega, for He is BIG!!
 3. dunamis - power. to be able, to have great ability.
- C. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead...vs 23 and the church is His body.
1. If this power is able to raise a crucified, blood emptied body, beaten beyond recognition think of what it is able to do for us who believe.
 2. Do you see now what Paul was praying such prayers...constantly?

Conclusion:

- Pray constantly!
- Pray that the church of Brevard County be flooded with His light!
- Pray that the church of Brevard County would see, perceive and believe in the Big God who raised Jesus from the dead and is able and willing to heal us too.