

CrossWinds Church - EFCA

January 26, 2014

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, Ephesians 1:15–16 (ESV)

How should I pray for people I love?

Pray God would open the eyes of their heart to understanding what God has done for them through Jesus.

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, Ephesians 1:17 (ESV)

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. 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. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 1 Corinthians 2:11–13 (ESV)

Pray God would show them three specific things.

1. The great future in front of them.

It is only when the Holy Spirit opens the eyes of our heart to see our future that we will live for it.

...the hope to which he has called you, ... Ephesians 1:18 (ESV)

- **When we invest financially for God today, we will be rewarded in heaven for how we gave.**

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17–19 (ESV)

but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:20 (ESV)

- **Why love the hard-to-love people?**

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? Matthew 5:46 (ESV)

- **Why say “No!” to sin?**

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11:24–26 (ESV)

- **Why work hard in school, sports or the office?**

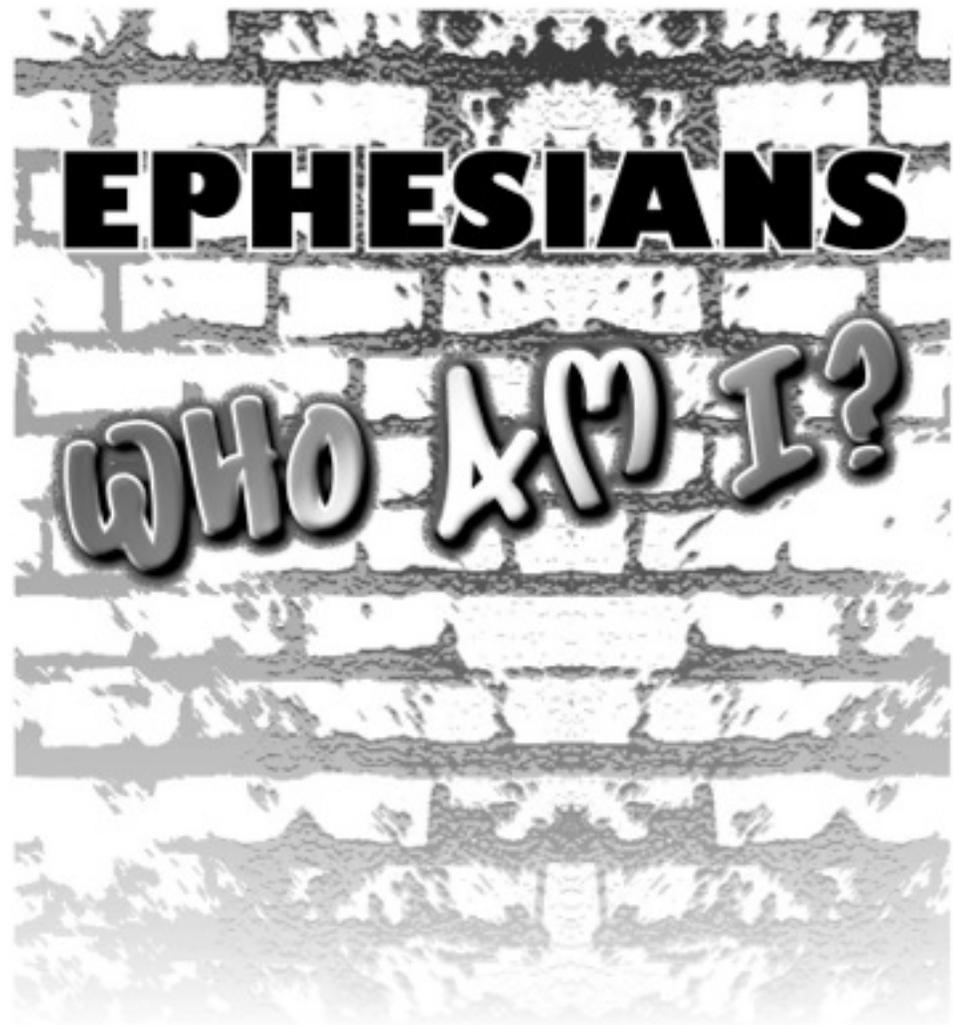
Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23–24 (ESV)

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. Revelation 22:12 (NIV)

2. The incredible value God places on them.

It is only when the Holy Spirit opens the eyes of our heart do we comprehend how much Jesus loves us that we can escape from the tyranny of despair.

...what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, Ephesians 1:18 (ESV)



3. The greatness of God's power at work in them.

It is only when the Holy Spirit opens the eyes of our heart to comprehend the greatness of God's power in us and that will be displayed through us that we can avoid being enticed by the second-rate powers around us.

and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, ... Ephesians 1:19 (ESV)

according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ... Ephesians 1:20–22 (ESV)

Pray that God would open the eyes of those you love to the greatness of what God has done for them through Jesus.

How should I pray for people I love?