

What is Paul's two-fold goal in this prayer for the Thessalonians? How should such a goal shape your prayers?

Summarize what you have learned about Paul's basis for prayer and the things he prays for. What of these can you use in your prayer life?

*Each week in your study in a group or alone it is important to conclude your time in prayer.*

Study 6: **Prayer – A framework for prayer.**  
Sermon – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Reading: 2Thessaloninas 1:1 - 12

One of the most notable characteristics of most of Paul's letters is the importance of prayer. In his letters he often lists things he thanks God for in the church he is writing to. He is consistent in his prayers and encourages his readers to likewise be praying.

Over the next four weeks we will be focusing on four passages drawn from Paul's letters which show what Paul prays about and the basis on which he prays.

When you write to people or speak with them do you mention you pray for them. We can feel embarrassed or not wanting to blow our own trumpet but praying for one another and letting them know that prayed for them can be tremendously encouraging. Paul often encouraged the people he wrote to by saying he prayed and what he prayed for.

*What is the most pressing need in the contemporary church of the Western world? Why do you think this?*

Prayer is something that at one level is very simple yet also incredibly hard to do consistently and effectively. It is something that needs to be modelled, maybe by a parent, a friend or trusted Christian leader.

List the positive and negative things you have learned about praying by listening to others pray.

Read 2Thessalonians 1:1 - 12:

For what does Paul give thanks? For what do you give thanks?

What kind of things in people's lives should call forth our most profound gratitude to God? Why?

How does Paul's anticipation of Jesus' return shape his values and prayers?

What other New Testament teaching can you think of that encourages us to live (and pray!) with eternity's values in view?

How does the promise return of Jesus influence how and for what you pray?

What does it mean to pray that God might count Christians we know to be worthy of God's calling? How could you incorporate such petitions in your prayers?

What good, faith-prompted purposes have you been developing? How much have you prayed that God will bring such purposes to fulfilment? What concrete steps can you take to improve your praying in this area?