

EPHESIANS 1:15-17

October 4, 2015 AM

EPHESIANS 1:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ 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,

1. What prompts you to give thanks for other believers? When you pray for fellow believers, how do you usually pray for them? Give some specific examples.
2. In vv. 15-16, Paul writes, “For this reason...I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” What specific things did Paul hear about in regard to these believers that led to his giving thanks? Why are these characteristics important?

How does Paul’s statement in these verses relate back to 1:3-14?

3. The New American Standard Bible translates the phrase “remembering you” in verse 16 as “making mention of you.” Does this different wording add any additional insight into how Paul prayed for these Christians?
4. Why do you think Paul’s prayers focus on wisdom, revelation, and knowledge? What kind of knowledge does he mention specifically (see 1:18-23)? How is knowledge of God different from knowledge about God?
5. What is one thing from the sermon that either encouraged you, convicted you, or challenged you?
6. How important is it for us to pray for one another specifically, by name and by need (spiritual as well as physical & material needs)?

7. Compare and contrast Paul's prayer in these verses with how you answered question 1. How might you take Paul's prayer (that continues to verse 23) and use it as a model prayer to pray for the spiritual growth of others?

8. In addition to using Paul's prayer here (or other prayers in Scripture as a model for prayer), are there other ways your prayers for other believers could be improved? Consider the following additional possibilities and questions:
 - Have a specific plan for praying regularly for others. What is your plan?

 - Have a written list of prayer requests for others. How do you keep a list?

 - Use biblical prayers, especially those of Jesus and the apostles, to inform and guide your prayers for others. How do you intentionally incorporate Scripture into your prayer life?

 - Use insights gleaned from studying Scripture, reading devotional material, or listening to sermons to help you pray for others. How do you intentionally incorporate such insights into your prayer life?