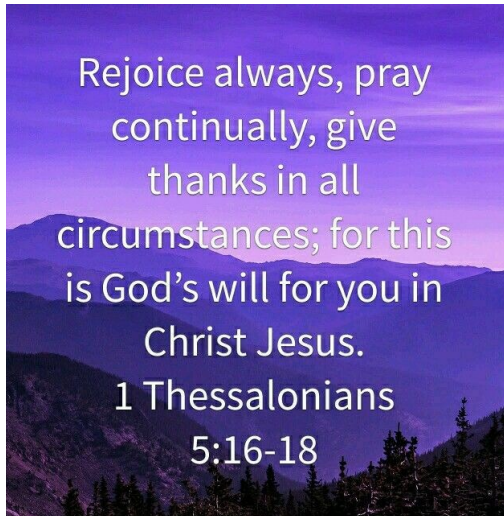


Thanksgiving and Prayer Ephesians 1: 15-23

• Introducing the theme of Thanksgiving

¹⁵ Ever since I heard about your **faith** in the Lord Jesus and your **love** for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped **giving thanks for you**, remembering you in my prayers.



- **Love** ἀγάπη **godly, self-giving love**
- **Faith** πίστις **belief and trust in God**
- **Thanks** εὐχαριστῶ

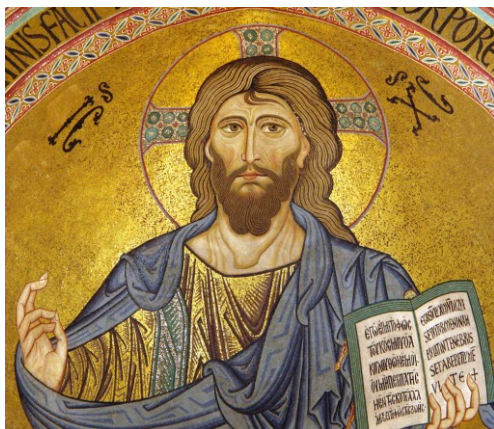
Paul gives thanks for the new-found faith and Christian love of the Ephesians.

- Why should we give thanks?
- What do we mostly give thanks for?
- What is the effect of our thanksgiving?
- What changes when things go wrong?
- Let's give thanks for each other by name!

Thanksgiving and Prayer Ephesians 1: 15-23

• Prayer for spiritual wisdom and insight to know Jesus better

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so that you may know him better.



- **Spirit** πνεῦμα
- **Wisdom** σοφία **spiritual understanding**
- **Revelation** ἀποκάλυψις **unlocking the mystery**
- **Full knowledge** ἐπίγνωσις **discernment, recognition**
- Is this a prayer we can pray for ourselves?
- Can we also encourage one another in prayer?
- Ask Holy Spirit for wisdom and understanding.
- Read the Scriptures daily and apply the truth.
- Seek discernment and recognise the presence of Jesus with you each day.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Ephesians 1: 15-23

- "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord"

¹⁸ I pray that **the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the **hope** to which he has **called** you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ...



Eyes ὀφθαλμούς penetrating vision

Heart καρδιά centre of our being, inner emotions

Hope ἐλπίς confident expectation of eternal life

Calling κλήσις God's invitation to receive salvation

- We need to see clearly to avoid being deceived.
- The heart is the seat of the emotions.
- Our hearts respond to the call of God.



- Lk 24: 32 - "Were not our hearts burning within us ... ?"
- Jer 29: 13 - "You will seek me and find me ... with all your heart." v11 - "... plans ... to give you hope and a future."
- Ps 95: 8 & Heb 3:8 - "Today ,,, do not harden your hearts."
- Col 3: 15 - "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts ..."

Thanksgiving and Prayer Ephesians 1: 15-23

- Understanding the incredible greatness of God's power in us who believe

... the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,¹⁹ and his **incomparably great power for us who believe**. That power is the same as the mighty strength²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.



Power δύναμις God's mighty power and works

Saints, believers, holy people ἅγιος **separated**

What have we seen of God's power in our lives?
When have we exercised authority in the name
of Jesus?

How can we receive Holy Spirit power? (Acts1:8)

What testimony can we give of God's power at work through prayer in our church fellowship?

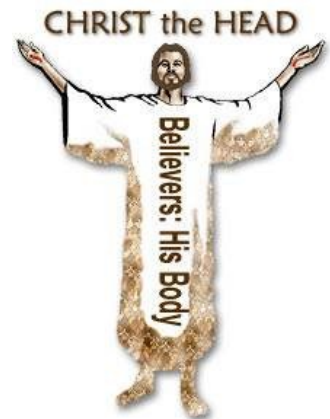
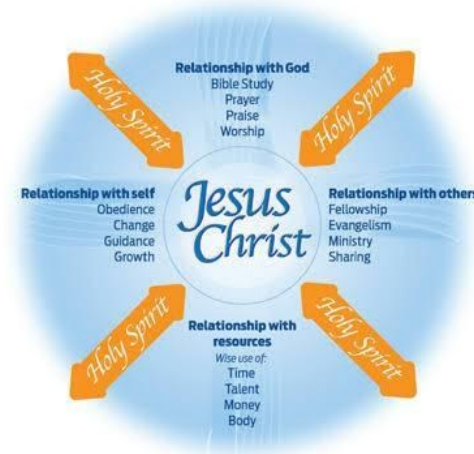
Examples: prayer ministry, witness, healing
transformation of people or situations ...



Thanksgiving and Prayer Ephesians 1: 15-23

- Conclusion: Jesus, head of the church, filling his earthly body

²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to **be head over everything for the church,** ²³ **which is his body,** the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.



Ephesians 1:15-23

New International Version

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped **giving thanks** for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.** ¹⁸ I pray that **the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his **incomparably great power for us who believe.** That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to **be head over everything for the church,** ²³ **which is his body,** the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.