

MARCH 23, 2025

# PRAYING

## WITH PAUL



**SERMON:** Priorities in Prayer ([WATCH SERMON](#)) ([SERMON NOTES](#))

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Steve

**CORE SCRIPTURE:** Colossians 1:9–14

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### SUMMARY

Pastor Steve emphasizes that prayer should be our priority, drawing from examples of the apostle Paul's prayers as a model. The sermon highlights three key priorities in prayer: Praying continually and intentionally, seeking knowledge of God's will, and living a life that pleases Jesus. We are all encouraged to actively engage in prayer as we discern God's purpose for our church's future.

#### SHARE: WHERE WERE YOU IN 2015?

Pastor Steve begins by reflecting on how Cornerstone prioritized prayer when the facility first opened in 2015. Share where you were and what you were doing in 2015. Reflect on what your priorities were back then compared to now. What changed?

**Bible Passage** – Read Colossians 1:9-14, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

#### DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus centered discussions.

1. What impacted you the most from the sermon?
2. What are the most common themes or requests in your prayers? How do they align with the priorities Paul emphasizes?
3. Discuss Colossians 1:9: **“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you.”**

What does this tell us about the importance of continual prayer for others? (To understand what Paul means by the phrase “For this reason”, read Col 1:3-8).

4. Pastor Steve focuses on that God's will means "God's agenda for our world." How can you seek to be filled with the knowledge of God's will in your life? What role does Scripture play in this process?
5. Which of these aspects (bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, endurance and patience, giving joyful thanks to God) do you find most challenging, and why? Col 1:10-12
6. Have you found any effective ways you have found to engage with Scripture regularly? How can the group encourage each other in our engagement with Scripture?
7. Share a time when giving thanks to God changed your perspective. 1 Thess 5:16-18

## **NEXT STEPS**

Choosing one or two of the following "next steps" to take this week.

- Plan a Group prayer initiative, such as a prayer meeting, prayer schedule, or a prayer chain.
- Pair up with someone in the group to be prayer partners for the series. Commit to praying for each other's specific requests and checking in weekly.
- **Practical Guide Sheet for Bible Intake** ([cornerstonechurch.ca/bibleintake](http://cornerstonechurch.ca/bibleintake))
- **Prayer Closet:** Consider joining the Prayer Closet ministry starting up again April 20th. (Email [dave@cornerstonechurch.ca](mailto:dave@cornerstonechurch.ca))

## **PRAY**

Spend time in prayer as a group, "Praying with Paul" by using Colossians 1:9-14 as a framework or jumping-off point for your prayers.