

TEACH US TO PRAY

INTRO

What is the weirdest gift you have ever received on a special occasion?

What types of activities do you like to do in the summer?

READ

Ephesians 1:15-19, Ephesians 3:13-21, Acts 19:8-10

REFLECT

Paul, in his letter, to the Ephesian church included these two prayers for them. Paul spent more than two years at Ephesus, but now 10 years later was in jail.

1st Prayer Focus: Revelation. Paul's first prayer was for increased revelation of what has been already provided to us by through the work of Jesus. "May give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened."

The heart, defined biblically, is the entirety of our inner person: mind, will and emotions. We are not transformed if only one part of us is affected.

Qu: What might be the result of our relationship with God if we only have our emotions impacted, or just our minds, or just our will?

Paul specifically prayed for increased revelation in three areas:

Hope – restoration of all things

People – His glorious inheritance

Power – put everything under our feet

Qu: Why would it be vital to have a strong revelation of these three things?

2nd Prayer Focus: Strength to Comprehend.

More specifically, Paul prayed for the people to

Pt 6: WHAT PAUL PRAYED

have strength to comprehend the love of Christ. The church advanced, but in the midst of persecution. Paul knew the church needed even more understanding of the width, length, height and depth of the love of Christ.

Qu: What do you think these dimensions of Christ's love mean?

Qu: Paul never prayed for their circumstances to change in either prayer. Why do you think that was?

Impact. Paul concluded the second prayer with a powerful benediction:

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Ephesian church was responsible for all of Asia hearing the word of God!

RESPOND

Qu: What area of your heart do you need more revelation? Your mind, will or emotions?

Qu: What prayer practices are you trying to implement from this series?

PRAY

- Pray for our church to make a great impact like the Ephesian church did.
- Pray for the love of Christ to be stronger in us and through us.
- Pray for one another for any needs in our lives or challenges we may be facing