

How Can I Pray for You?

Colossians 1:9--14

LG Questions for 01.11.09

Getting Started

- 1) Obstacles to Prayer.** Prayer is one of the most childlike things a believer can do. But that doesn't make it easy. "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees" and does everything he can to keep us from praying because he knows how powerful our prayers are. What keeps you from praying more (doubt, apathy, busyness, sin, lack of instruction, etc.) and why?

Getting into the Bible

- 2) How to Pray.** Read Colossians 1:9. a) In praying for the Colossians, what did Paul specifically ask for? Does this surprise you, given the fact that he doesn't mention any outstanding problems in their church? (See verses 3-8.) b) How important is it to you to know God's will for your life? When trying to determine His will, where do you usually turn for direction? Why?

- 3) Results of Prayer.** Read Colossians 1:10-14. a) One result Paul expected from his praying was fruitfulness in the lives of the Colossians. What do you think he meant by this? What would it mean for you to be spiritually fruitful? b) His second expectation was greater power in their lives. What form was this power to take, and how much of it have you been experiencing? Explain. c) Thankfulness was the third thing he expected the Colossians to enjoy. What should be the greatest source of our thankfulness if we know Christ?

Getting Personal and Practical

- 4) Your Prayer.** Praying for another person is the greatest thing you can do for them. a) Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why? b) Finish your study by making a list of the people you'd like to pray for on a regular basis and use Paul's example to identify two or three ways you can pray for them. c) As further motivation to pray, memorize 1 Samuel 12:23, which says—"God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you."