

POSITIVE PRAYER

Philippians 1:3-11

Let us learn from Paul's example of positive prayer

I. PRAISING GOD FOR YOUR GOODNESS (3-8)

A. THANKFULNESS (3)

- Expressing thanks to God

1. Conditions: Paul's thoughts led him to thanksgiving prayers
2. Situation: Paul had a powerful and personal relationship with them
3. Conclusion: Positive prayer thanks God for others

B. JOYFULNESS (4-5)

- Experiencing joy in prayer

1. The Supplication (4) > Always offering prayer
2. The Reasons (5) > For their conduct, cooperation and consistency
3. Conclusion: Positive prayer joyfully acknowledges the contributions of others to the cause of Christ

C. OPTIMISM (6-8)

- Expecting the best when praying

1. Because I know God (6) > A confidence that God will finish what He starts
2. Because I know you (7)
 - a. You participated with me as a prisoner > In my imprisonment
 - b. You participated with me as a preacher > In the defense and confirmation of the gospel
3. Because I know myself (8)
 - a. I am longing for you
 - b. I know that God has created this bond in me for you
4. Conclusion: Positive prayer includes a very personal and passionate involvement in the lives of others that encourages optimistic intercession

II. PETITIONING GOD FOR YOUR GROWTH (9-11)

A. ABOUNDING LOVE (9)

1. A prosperous love: Never content with your current condition!
2. A perceptive love: Growing in knowledge and discernment
3. Conclusion: Positive prayer desires a plentiful yet perceptive love among Christians

B. SOUND JUDGMENT (10a)

1. Approval after testing > Not accepting things at face value
2. Keeping only the excellent
3. Conclusion: Positive prayer asks that others take the time to truly examine things before embracing them.

C. PURE CHARACTER (10b)

1. Sincere: The real deal
 - Transparent with nothing to hide
2. Blameless: Finishing well
 - Uninjured by obstacles in the road of life
3. Conclusion: Positive prayer wants others to have the character that protects and purifies them

D. EVIDENT RIGHTEOUSNESS (11)

1. A demonstrated righteousness
 - What's inside and working itself out due to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit within us
2. A disciplined righteousness - Heb. 12:11
3. A divine righteousness: Coming only through Jesus Christ
4. A directed righteousness: That which results in the glory and praise of God
5. Conclusion: Positive prayer seeks a rich harvest of righteousness in others

CONCLUSION:**By positive prayer I will:**

1. Praise God for your goodness
 - With thankfulness, joyfulness and optimism
2. Petition God for your growth
 - Through abounding love, sound judgment, pure character and evident righteousness

Will you promise to positively pray for others?

1. Positive prayer thanks God for others
2. Positive prayer joyfully acknowledges the contributions of others to the cause of Christ
3. Positive prayer includes a very personal and passionate involvement in the lives of others that encourages optimistic intercession
4. Positive prayer desires a plentiful yet perceptive love among Christians
5. Positive prayer asks that others take the time to truly examine things before embracing them.
6. Positive prayer wants others to have the character that protects and purifies them
7. Positive prayer seeks a rich harvest of righteousness in others

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