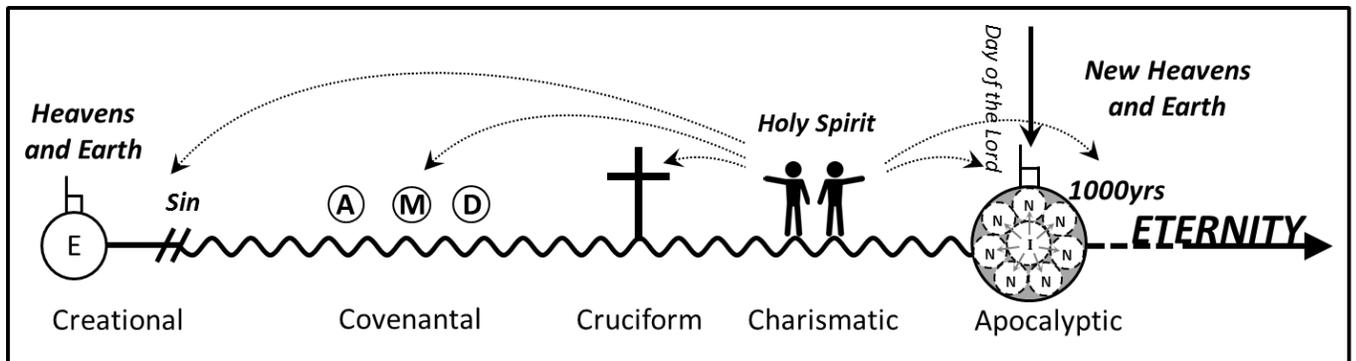


## The Prayers of the Apostles

“Much Has Been Written upon what is usually called ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ but which we prefer to term ‘The Family Prayer,’ and much upon the high priestly prayer of Christ in John 17, but very little upon the prayers of the apostles. Personally we know of no book devoted to the same, and except for a booklet on the two prayers of Ephesians 1 and 3 we have seen scarcely anything thereon. It is not easy to explain this omission, for one would think the apostolic prayers had such importance and value for us that they would attract the attention of those who wrote on devotional subjects.” (A. W. Pink, *Gleanings from Paul: Studies in the Prayers of the Apostle* [Moody Press, 1967], 9)

### I. The Apostolic Witness

“And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” <sup>44</sup>While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. (<sup>ESV</sup> Acts 10:42-45)



### II. Matthew 6:9-15

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread, <sup>12</sup>and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. <sup>14</sup>For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup>but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (<sup>ESV</sup> Mt. 6:9-15)

### III. Acts 4:24-30

And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup>who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’ [Ps. 2:1-2]— <sup>27</sup>for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup>to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, look upon their threats

and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,<sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” (<sup>ESV</sup> Acts 4:24-30)

#### IV. Romans 15:5-13

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,<sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” [Ps. 18:49]<sup>10</sup> And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” [Deut. 32:43, LXX]<sup>11</sup> And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” [Ps. 117:1]<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” [Isa. 11:10]<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (<sup>ESV</sup> Rom. 15:5-13)

#### V. 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,<sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (<sup>ESV</sup> 1 Cor. 1:4-9)

#### VI. Ephesians 1:16-19

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,<sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might<sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,<sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (Eph. 1:16-21)

#### VII. Ephesians 3:14-19

I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,<sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,<sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,<sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,<sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.<sup>20</sup> 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,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.<sup>4:1</sup> I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (<sup>ESV</sup> Eph. 3:13-4:6)

## VIII. Philippians 1:9-11

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.<sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.<sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.<sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,<sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,<sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (<sup>ESV</sup> Phil. 1:6-11)

## IX. Colossians 1:9-12

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,<sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.<sup>11</sup> May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,<sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (<sup>ESV</sup> Col. 1:9-12)

## X. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—<sup>7</sup> for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith.<sup>8</sup> For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.<sup>9</sup> For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God,<sup>10</sup> as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you,<sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,<sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (<sup>ESV</sup> 1 Thess. 3:6-13)

## XI. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.<sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.<sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape...<sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.<sup>9</sup> For God has

not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing...<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always,<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing,<sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit.<sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies,<sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good.<sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.<sup>25</sup> Brothers, pray for us.<sup>26</sup> Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. (<sup>ESV</sup> 1 Thess. 5:1-26)

## XII. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.<sup>4</sup> Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.<sup>5</sup> This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—<sup>6</sup> since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,<sup>7</sup> and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels<sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.<sup>9</sup> They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,<sup>10</sup> when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.<sup>11</sup> To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,<sup>12</sup> so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>2:1</sup> Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,<sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. (<sup>ESV</sup> 2 Thess. 1:3-2:2)

## XIII. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,<sup>12</sup> in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.<sup>13</sup> But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.<sup>14</sup> To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>15</sup> So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.<sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,<sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.<sup>3:1</sup> Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,<sup>2</sup> and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.<sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.<sup>4</sup> And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command.<sup>5</sup> May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. (<sup>ESV</sup> 2 Thess. 2:11-3:5)