

Renewing Our Vision for 2021
“Praying for Christians” Part 1
Ephesians 1:15-17

God’s Commitment to His Children

God, the Father’s Commitment (Eph. 1:3-5)

He blessed us in ways beyond what we can see, chose us to be like Him in ways unlike the world we know, and predestined us to adoption as His children so we will enjoy relationship with Him for eternity.

God, the Son’s Work (Eph. 1:6-12)

Jesus redeemed us from this world, forgave us for all of our sins, revealed God’s will for us as His children to make Him known on earth until He returns, and secured our inheritance as God’s children for eternity.

**We Heard and We Believed
(Minimal Investment)**

God, the Spirit’s Work

Our relationship to God as His children until the Kingdom of God comes is sealed by the Holy Spirit who lives in us and is the evidence of God’s commitment to help us in this life.

TODAY: How to Pray for Christians.

Pray for Depth of Understanding Truth (Eph 1:15-22)

1. Evidence of a person’s adoption as a child of God manifesting the Spirit’s presence is reason to thank God and to pray. (Eph. 1:15-16)

There are two specific kinds of fruit that give evidence of the Spirit’s presence in the life of God’s children:

- 1) Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.
- 2) Love of the saints; those made holy by Jesus.

We give thanks because we know how much God has invested in the life of every person who desires a relationship with Him.

We give thanks because we know that a person is willing to receive what God has sacrificially offered.

We give thanks because without the work of God in a person’s life, there is no relationship with Him as a Father and death is a frightening reality to face.

We pray because we know growth as a child of God is what God the Father desires for us more than anything in this life.

**2. How do we pray most constructively for God’s children?
(Eph. 1:17)**

“That the God ... may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him”

We pray for wisdom so a person is able to discern how God’s revealed will informs is practically applied to life.

We pray for Spirit-informed understanding of reality as known and taught by Jesus so that we can live with clarity about what matters most in life.

Our Focus in the Coming Week

- Re-considering the implications of Eph. 1:3-14 to my life. Can I learn to think more deeply? What can I do?
- Can I learn to give thanks for every person I know who gives evidence of following Jesus and loving the family of God? Who will I express gratitude for?
- Can I pray for Christians with a focus upon their growth? Who will I pray for?