

Lord Bless Justin!

Praying for Wycliffe Workers



Let *Paul* show us
how.....

Is this really *praying*?

As I begin praying for the missionaries I know of, today, I realise I have no fresh news about any of them. So, my prayer is dry, hurried and impersonal – ‘...bless the Browns and bless....’

Wait a minute!

Suddenly, I remember asking friends to pray for me the other week. And I wonder with horror if they are ‘praying’ for me in the same way I am praying for these missionaries ‘...and bless Sarah and bless Jodie...’. Is this really *praying*?

So I turn to the apostle Paul. I have no impression that his prayers were hurried or dry, even though he lived in a time of poor communication and almost total lack of news...even though he prayed for an ever-increasing number of churches and Christians.

How did he do it? By the Spirit of Christ within him. And though I may not yet have the same spontaneity in prayer as Paul had, I can at least learn to pray as he did - by using his own prayers as my guide. God made sure they were written down for my benefit! I think I'll try with the prayer in Colossians...

Colossians 1:9-14


"For this reason we have always prayed for you, ever since we heard about you. We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will, with all the wisdom and understanding that His Spirit gives."

"Then you will be able to live as the Lord wants and will always do what pleases Him. Your lives will produce all kinds of good deeds, and you will grow in your knowledge of God."

"May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power so that you may be able to endure everything with patience."

"And with joy give thanks to the Father who has made you fit to have your share of what God has reserved for His people in the Kingdom of light."

"He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safely into the Kingdom of His dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven."



"Thanks to so many of you for your prayers and generous gifts as well!"

A Wycliffe worker

wycliffe.org.uk

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Praying for the person you know...

"For this reason we have always prayed for you, ever since we heard about you. We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will, with all the wisdom and understanding that His Spirit gives."

Lord, fill Justin with the knowledge of your will. May he have your point of view in all things. Keep him from decisions made from self-advantage. Help his decisions to be based on your truth - not the perverted standards of this world.

Give him wisdom and spiritual understanding. Deliver him from a dependence on the dishonesty and craftiness of man's wisdom, from conceit and pride. Grant to him the pure wisdom which is from above - pure, teachable, humble.

"Then you will be able to live as the Lord wants and will always do what pleases Him. Your lives will produce all kinds of good deeds, and you will grow in your knowledge of God."

Help him to live as you want him to, and to always do what pleases you. Enable him for this, not only in his praying and witnessing, but also in the drudgeries of daily living. May small maintenance jobs, errands run, meals eaten, the way he dresses and all his relationships please you.

Help his life to produce all kinds of good deeds. Keep him from any self-centredness or work-centredness that would stifle the flow of your love through him. Let his life be full of acts of kindness and goodness and generosity.

Help him to grow in his knowledge of you. May he see you clearly in your word, may he hear you speak to him in prayer and meditation, may he be so filled with your Spirit of holiness and love that he would know you as you are.

"May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power so that you may be able to endure everything with patience."

Make him strong with your glorious power, the power that raised Christ from the dead. Take his weakness and inability that it might be lost in the ocean depths of your own omnipotence.

Teach him to endure everything with patience. Make him patient with the shortcomings and irritating habits of his co-workers, in all the daily circumstances and frictions. Make him patient in the multitude of interruptions, upsets and delays which slow his work. Give him a solution to the problem he is facing right now. And grant him patience with himself, with his own faults and weaknesses.

Give him victory over every sin, every temptation he may have to only live - and produce - the second best.

"And with joy give thanks to the Father who has made you fit to have your share of what God has reserved for His people in the Kingdom of light."

Fill his heart with your overflowing joy. May he see your love and mercy in control in every circumstance. May he rejoice in the certain knowledge of your presence with him and love for him.

And teach him to be thankful!

"He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safely into the Kingdom of His dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven."

I praise you, Lord, that you have made Justin fit to have a share of what you have reserved for your people in the Kingdom of light. I thank you for your mercy and your transforming power at work even today, in his life.

I pray that you would make the deliverance from darkness and sin a practical reality in his daily life. When he falls into sin, bring him quickly to conviction and repentance and fill his heart with your love, with your forgiveness and your joy.

I thank you for calling him out of darkness. I thank you that you have brought him safe into the Kingdom of your dear Son.

And may all glory be to Jesus our Lord and Saviour who is superior in all things. **Amen.**

Adapted from an article
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