

Inspired by the letters

The new testament is full of letters written by Paul to different churches across the world. Paul had visited some of the churches, others he was hoping to visit. Paul had raised up lots of leaders across these churches and they spoke with him/ wrote to him about how their churches were getting on. Paul's letters were responses to this and were filled with encouragement, challenge, wisdom and lots of reminders about who God is.

Paul always begins his letters with an introduction to himself (and who he is in Jesus/ who God has called him to be), he often glorifies God during this. Paul almost always encourages the church and talks about how he has been encouraged by them/ what he is praying for them.

These few verses from each epistle are a really good template for us to pray for people or ourselves.

Why don't you read through the following verses a couple of times and then let them form your prayers? This could be as simple as just saying them out loud and adding a friend's name at an appropriate point, you might simply take some of the words and truth from these passages and use them in your prayers.

1 Corinthians 1 vs 4-10 Thanks God for position in Jesus, prays that the church (// the person you are praying for \\) remembers this and prays for unity amongst them.

2 Corinthians 1 vs 2-7

Prays for comfort in suffering.

Galatians 1 vs 3-5

Reminder about what Jesus sacrificed for us so he could deliver us from evil- could phrase this as asking God to deliver from the evils of the present age. Can you think of some 'evils' from this present age which might be troubling/ causing issues for you or your friends?

Ephesians 1

This is a prayer of thanksgiving and a beautiful summary of the gospel, it becomes a prayer for spiritual wisdom, great to pray for friends, leaders, new Christians, etc.

Philippians 1 vs 3-11

A prayer and thanksgiving! A good prayer to pray if you are feeling like you are stuck in the middle of something, or feel that God is growing you.

Colossians 1 vs 3-23

A thanksgiving and praise to God for what He has saved us into through Jesus.