

A New Year's Prayer

New Life Lessons
January 3rd & 4th, 2015
Pastor Vince Llamas

Day One Read Ephesians 1:15-17; Colossians 1:10; 2 Peter 3:18; James 4:8a

What does it mean to you that God wants a relationship with you and not just for you to know about Him but to actually know Him personally? What was your conception of God growing up? Where is that place you feel closest to God? What sort of habits need to be strengthened in your life to help you consistently see God clearly?

Pray and ask God to make His presence more real in your life than it has ever been before. Thank Him for his promise to never leave you or forsake you.

Day Two Read Ephesians 1:18; Romans 15:13; Philippians 4:19

In Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23 he prays for knowledge – a growing knowledge of God – and for understanding - understanding for what we have in and from Him as followers of Christ. If we stay on the peripheral of taking the necessary steps to grow in our relationship with God, the Bible indicates we will not be able to appreciate what we have from Him.

Pray and ask God to give you a better understanding and greater insight through His Spirit of what He has given you so you can live as a devoted follower of Christ. As God reveals His gifts that He has given to you, spend time “counting your blessings” from God.

Day Three Read Ephesians 1:19-23; Philippians 4:13; Colossians 1:11; 2 Corinthians 12:9

What makes you feel powerless? As you look forward to the coming year, do you have a sense of foreboding? How does it make you feel to know you can do all things through Christ because He strengthens you?

Pray and ask God to help you see the challenges in your life as He sees them. Pray and ask God to help you grow in your trust of Him no matter what you may go through in 2015. Thank Him for the incredible greatness of His power working in your life.

“A New Year's Prayer”

Family Health #3

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, ¹⁶ I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, ¹⁷ asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. ¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself. Ephesians 1:15-23 (NLT)

Four truths we can embrace for 2015

1. God wants us to Know Him and have a relationship with Him.

¹⁷ Asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your **knowledge** of God. – Ephesians 1:17 (NLT)

¹⁰ So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God ... Colossians 1:10 (NIV)

But grow in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

“epignósis” - “Know” indicating intimacy and relationship; Knowledge gained through first-hand relationship; “contact-knowledge”; experiential knowing

2. We find our Hope in Christ.

¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident **hope** he has given to those he called ...
Ephesians 1:18 (NLT)

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future he has called you to share.”
Ephesians 1:18 (Living Bible)

May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

Be joyful in **hope**, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no **hope**.
1 Thessalonians 4:13

That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our **hope** in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.
1 Timothy 4:10

Elpis: Hope – “expectation, trust, confidence” comes from a word that means “to anticipate, to welcome” so we can understand “Hope” to mean “expectation of what is sure (certain)”

“Human beings can live for forty days without food, four days without water, and four minutes without air. But we cannot live for four seconds without hope.” *Andy Crouch, “The Gospel of Steve Jobs,” Christianity Today (1-21-11)*

3. We find our Riches are from Christ.

¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his **rich** and glorious inheritance.
Ephesians 1:18 (NLT)

“Then you will discover the glorious **blessings** that will be yours together with all of God’s people.”
Ephesians 1:18 CEV

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious **riches**, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19 NLT

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was **rich**, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you **rich**.
2 Corinthians 8:9 NLT

Instruct those who are **rich** in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of **riches**, but on God, who **richly** supplies us with all things to enjoy.

1 Timothy 6:17 (NASB) (1 Timothy 6:9, 18)

ploutos: riches, wealth, abundance, materially or spiritually

4. We find our Power through Christ

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s **power** for us who believe him.
Ephesians 1:19 (NLT)

“I want you to know about the great and mighty **power** that God has for us followers.”
Ephesians. 1:19 (CEV)

“I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens** me” Phil 4:13 (Literally “**Empowered**” to give someone the authority or power to do something.)

Being strengthened with all **power** according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience ...
Colossians 1:11

Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the **power** of Christ can work through me.
2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT (James 4:8a; Psalm 37:4; Philippians 3:8-10)

Dunamis: might, power, strength, marvelous works; “Power through God’s ability”

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Lord Jesus, my heart’s desire is to grow in my relationship with you and know you better this year than I did last year. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me grow in my desire to spend time with you and give me a deeper understanding of your desire to have a relationship with me. I also pray for a greater understanding of what it means to have hope in you today and for the future. Develop in me an eternal perspective when it comes to money. Remind me I am rich in the things that truly matter and guard my heart from falling prey to our culture’s standards of wealth. Reveal your power working in me and through me. Remind me each day I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I commit myself to you and may I bring glory to your name in 2015. Amen.