

A PRAYING MINISTRY

Introduction: Prayer is the _____ weapon of the Christian. It helps us to accomplish what we could never do with our own efforts.

- I. A Prayer of _____ (1 Thessalonians 3:9)
 - A. Paul was sure to thank _____ for all the Thessalonians had become.
 - B. He did not take _____ for their spiritual maturity.
 - C. All _____ growth in the lives of believers is the work of God (Phil. 2:13).
- II. A Prayer for _____ (1 Thessalonians 3:10-12)
 - A. Paul prayed _____.
 - B. Prayer should be as natural to believers as _____.
 - C. It was his heart's _____ to see this church again.
 - D. He had their best _____ in mind.
 - E. Even the best of churches still have room for spiritual _____.
 - F. We will never _____ to a place where we do not need to grow anymore (Phil. 3:12-13).
 - G. "The Thessalonians were like tender young _____; their tender roots held them firm against the present storm, but they still needed to grow and mature" (Bible Knowledge Commentary).
 - H. God _____ other believers into our lives to help us grow (Eph. 4).
 - I. All our _____ must be submitted to God's will (Prov. 3:5-6).
 - J. Paul wanted their _____ for one another to overflow.
 - K. Spend your life in the interest of _____ (Phil. 2:4).
- III. A Prayer for _____ (1 Thessalonians 3:13)
 - A. The end result of living a life of loving others is _____ before God.
 - B. Loving others is the fulfilling of the _____ (Ro. 13:8; Jas. 2:8).
 - C. We are never more like God than when we are _____ others.
 - D. The coming of Christ is to always be in our _____.
 - E. We will be returning with Christ at His second _____ (Rev. 19:14).

Conclusion: "Paul's prayer life was habitual, not spasmodic: night and day. It was intensely fervent: praying exceedingly. It was specific: that we may see your face. And it was altruistic: that we may . . . perfect what is lacking in your faith" (MacDonald).