

# Lifting the Level of Our Praying, Part 1

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 1.

B. Many people do not like prayer meetings because they are mostly negative.

## II. Christians want to be known for their faith and love, so Paul prays for this.

## III. Prayer meetings are dry because of the content of our prayers.

A. Paul begins his prayer by acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God.

B. Paul requests that the Ephesians might know the truth of Christ.

1. The hope of their calling.

2. The inheritance of the saints.

a. We have a Christ inheritance.

b. We are also the inheritance of Christ—believers are valuable to God.

3. The surpassing greatness of the Spirit's power to those who believe.

C. We are in such a hurry to tell God what we need that we do not think about praying effectively based on an understanding of who God is.

D. Praying ought to be exciting—we ought to be gripped by God in it.

### **Application questions:**

1. What are prayers typically concerned with in the church? How does this contrast with Paul's prayer in Ephesians?

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2. Which elements of Paul's prayer stand out to you? What strikes you about them?

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3. How will you challenge yourself to pray differently in light of the message? Explain.

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