

1 Thessalonians 5:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Brethren, pray for us.

Analysis

Brethren, pray for us—*adelphoi, proseuchesthe peri hēmōn* (ἀδελφοί, προσεύχεσθε περὶ ἡμῶν, 'brothers, pray for us'). Paul requests mutual intercession. Despite apostolic authority, he needs the Thessalonians' prayers. *Peri hēmōn* (περὶ ἡμῶν, 'for us') includes Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy (1:1). This request demonstrates:

1. Paul's humility (apostles need prayer)
2. prayer's power (even apostles depend on it)
3. mutual ministry (not just leaders praying for members but members praying for leaders)
4. spiritual interdependence (all believers need each other's prayers).

Paul frequently requested prayer (Rom 15:30-32; 2 Cor 1:11

Eph 6:19-20; Col 4:3-4; 2 Thess 3:1-2; Phlm 22), modeling mutual intercession. Leaders who never request prayer display pride; members who never pray for leaders display indifference. Biblical church life includes reciprocal prayer—leaders for members (v. 23), members for leaders (v. 25). Paul's specific prayer requests elsewhere include: boldness in proclamation (Eph 6:19), deliverance from persecution (Rom 15:31), and gospel advancement (2 Thess 3:1). Christians serve each other through intercession, bearing one another's burdens (Gal 6:2) before God's throne.

Historical Context

Paul wrote from Corinth, facing opposition from Jews (Acts 18:6, 12-17) and planning to visit Jerusalem (where he would face arrest, Acts 21:27-36). He needed prayer for protection, boldness, and fruitfulness. The Thessalonians, though geographically distant and recently converted, could support Paul's ministry through intercession. This trans-local spiritual community demonstrates the church's unity—believers in Macedonia upholding apostolic mission throughout the empire. Early Christians maintained extensive prayer networks; contemporary churches should recover this practice of systematic intercession for missionaries, persecuted believers, and church leaders.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you practically fulfill Paul's request to 'pray for us' by interceding for spiritual leaders and missionaries?
2. What does Paul's humble request for prayer teach about spiritual interdependence versus ministerial self-sufficiency?
3. How can churches develop systematic intercession for leaders, missionaries, and persecuted believers worldwide?

Interlinear Text

Ἀδελφοί	προσεύχεσθε	περὶ	ἡμῶν
Brethren	pray	for	us
G80	G4336	G4012	G2257

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 1:19 (Prayer): For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

2 Corinthians 1:11 (Prayer): Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

Philemon 1:22 (Prayer): But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

Colossians 4:3 (Prayer): Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

Romans 15:30 (Prayer): Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

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