

Romans 15:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit (Παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ διὰ τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ πνεύματος, parakalō de hymas, adelphoi, dia tou kyriou hēmōn Iēsou Christou kai dia tēs agapēs tou pneumatou)—Parakalō (I urge, beseech, appeal) introduces urgent request. Dia (through, for the sake of) indicates basis for the appeal: ton kyrion (the Lord Jesus Christ) and tēs agapēs tou pneumatou (the love of the Spirit). This is implicitly trinitarian: Paul appeals by Christ and by the Spirit's love. Agapēs tou pneumatou could mean love produced by the Spirit (subjective genitive) or love for the Spirit (objective genitive)—more likely the former: the Spirit-produced love binding believers together.

That ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me (συναγωνίσασθαι μοι ἐν ταῖς προσευχαῖς ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, synagōnisasthai moi en tais proseuchais hyper emou pros ton theon)—Synagōnisasthai (strive together, agonize together) is athletic/military language: intense, concerted effort. Paul requests not casual prayer but striving prayer—fervent intercession. Moi (with me) indicates partnership: they fight alongside him in spiritual battle via prayer. This models apostolic humility: Paul, the great apostle, desperately needs others' prayers.

Historical Context

Paul's urgent prayer request reflects his awareness of Jerusalem danger (Acts 20:22-23, 21:10-11). Prophets warned of imprisonment; Paul knew his life was at risk. His request for prayer wasn't theoretical but life-or-death intercession. The Roman Christians, though distant, could participate in Paul's mission through prayer—demonstrating prayer's strategic importance in missions.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's metaphor of 'striving together' in prayer elevate your understanding of intercessory prayer's intensity and importance?
2. For which missionaries, church leaders, or dangerous gospel ministries should you be 'striving' in prayer rather than offering casual mention?
3. What does Paul's request—appealing 'for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake and for the love of the Spirit'—teach about motivations for intercession?

Interlinear Text

Παρακαλῶ	δὲ	ὕμᾱς	ἀδελφοί	διὰ	τοῦ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν
I beseech	Now	you	brethren	for	G3588	the Lord	sake
G3870	G1161	G5209	G80	G1223		G2962	G2257
Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	καὶ	διὰ	τῆς	ἀγάπης	τοῦ	πνεύματος
Jesus	Christ's	and	for	G3588	the love	G3588	of the Spirit
G2424	G5547	G2532	G1223		G26		G4151
συναγωνίσασθαι	μοι	ἐν	ταῖς	προσευχαῖς	ὑπὲρ	ἐμοῦ	
that ye strive together	with me	in	G3588	your prayers	for	me	
G4865	G3427	G1722		G4335	G5228	G1700	
πρὸς	τὸν	θεόν					
to	G3588	God					
G4314		G2316					

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 4:12 (Prayer): Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

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.

2 Corinthians 4:11 (References Jesus): For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

1 Thessalonians 5:25 (Prayer): Brethren, pray for us.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (Prayer): Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

Colossians 2:1 (Parallel theme): For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

Philippians 2:1 (Love): If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

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