

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 pneumatos)—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 pneumatos (the love of the Spirit). This is implicitly trinitarian: Paul appeals by Christ and by the Spirit's love. Agapēs tou pneumatos 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 (συναγωνίσασθαί 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 ὑμᾶς 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

συναγωνίσασθαί 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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