

# Praying Through Ephesians 4:1-16

## International Bible Lesson

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, as we think of the sacrifices that Jesus, Paul, and other disciples of Jesus have made over the centuries, we are humbled and pray that You would help us live worthy of Your having called us into Your glorious kingdom. Help us demonstrate the true qualities of what it means to live as a Christian and be filled with Your Spirit. Help us desire the true attributes of the Christ-filled life and strive to be humble, gentle, patient, loving, unifying as the Spirit leads, and peace-making according to the Scriptures. Help us live moment-by-moment, and especially when tempted to do wrong, with the realization that You are over all and through all and in all as our great Creator; therefore, You deserve our total allegiance and obedience.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the grace, faith, hope, and love that You have given us; otherwise, we would live lost rebellious lives. We thank You for the many gifts that You have given us, so we can live as true children of our heavenly Father and as brothers and sisters of You, our Savior and Lord. Help us truly grow daily in grace and mature as faithful Christians as we read Your words and the words of the apostles in the Bible. Inspire us to carefully consider the words and work of Your true prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, so we can be equipped to rightly serve You and Your body, the Church. Grant us greater knowledge of You and Your intentions for the world and us, so we can mature as Christians and show more of Your beauty and fullness in our lives.

Lord Jesus, as we study the Bible, we pray that Your Spirit would teach us more and more truth, so we can grow from being spiritual infants who can be easily misled into mature Christians who can discern false teachings and deceitful scheming. Guide us as we seek to help others grow in their knowledge of You, their understanding of the truth of the Bible, and their discernment of error, falsehood, and those who would seek to mislead them, so they can remain faithful to You. As we seek to serve You, help us always to speak the truth in love so we can grow and help others grow in love too as we all do the work You have assigned us in Your kingdom. In Your Name, we pray. Amen.

**Please Note:** I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.