

# 5 THINGS TO PRAY

As part of this series looking at four of Paul's 'big prayers' for the church we want to be encouraging one another to be using these prayers as guides for our own.

You can do that entirely on your own by simply opening up the passage and praying from it, but if in order to help us do that we've created these sheets to split the passage into 5 things we can be praying [inspired by Good Book Company series!].

You could use this to pray for one thing each day or else you could pray for all 5 each day - or do something in between! You could do this individually, or perhaps together as a family (at a meal times, or bed time) - entirely up to you - the important thing is that we find some time to be praying these things for one another :)

## **Idea for Families**

Particularly for those with younger children, the sheet also includes a picture which may help those who are not yet able to read. Explaining the card and the picture will help them to remember what we're praying for.

To add an extra element of fun, why not cut the page into rows and fold the picture back against each prayer point. You could then ask each person in the family to pick one and pray for it.

### REJOICING IN GROWTH

*For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? (v8-9)*

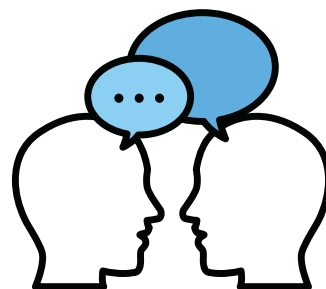
How do you see your brothers and sisters 'standing firm' as they hold onto God's truth in the midst of trials and difficulties? Give thanks for the way God is growing them.



### TO BE USED TO GROW OTHERS

*Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. (v10)*

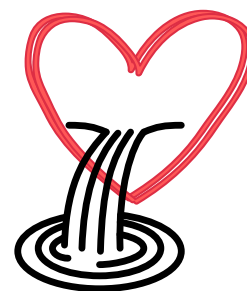
We might not be the Apostle Paul, but God's intention is that the whole church builds one another up as we speak truth in love to one another (Eph 4:15-16). Pray for opportunities to encourage and grow others.



### OVERFLOWING LOVE

*May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. (v12)*

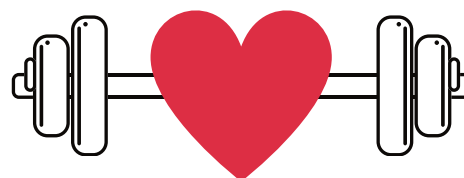
We often feel the weakness of our love for others and find it hard not to be self-concerned and self-absorbed. Pray that God would *make* our hearts grow in love, not just in small measure, but in abundance for both our church family and the world around us.



### STRENGTHENED HEARTS

*May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy (13a)*

Pray that God would grow our desire to live lives that please him. That he would give our hearts the spiritual backbone required to live differently from the world as we rest in Jesus' forgiveness and seek to follow him by the Spirit's power.



### LOOKING TO JESUS' RETURN

*...in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. (13b)*

Pray that we'd pursue growth in holiness looking forward to the day that Jesus returns for us, confident that he who calls us to be holy is faithful and he will do it (1 Thess 5:24).

