

## A Simple Christmas: A Christmas Prayer that Transforms

December 8-9, 2018

**INTRODUCTION:** Learning to Pray for Others

Philippians 1:4 (Verses from New International Version 1984 except where noted)  
***In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.***

### A Christmas Prayer that Transforms

#### 1. Pray with a positive attitude and approach.

- Philippians 1:3-4 <sup>3</sup> ***I thank my God every time I remember you.*** <sup>4</sup> ***In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.***
- Philippians 1:6 ***Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.***

#### 2. Pray with a personal focus.

- Philippians 1:4-5 <sup>4</sup> ***In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...*** <sup>5</sup>

- Philippians 1:7-8 <sup>7</sup> *It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.* <sup>8</sup> *God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.*

### 3. Pray with divine purpose.

- Philippians 1:9-11 <sup>9</sup> *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,* <sup>10</sup> *so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,* <sup>11</sup> *filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*
- Colossians 1:9b-14 <sup>9b</sup> *...Father, may they clearly know Your will and achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding.* <sup>10</sup> *May their lives be a credit to You, Lord; and what's more, may they continue to delight You by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge that comes from being close to You.* <sup>11</sup> *Strengthen them with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might, so that they will have everything they need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully.* <sup>12</sup> *Thank You, Father, as You have made us eligible to receive our portion of the inheritance given to all those set apart by the light.* <sup>13</sup> *You have rescued us from dark powers and brought us safely into the kingdom of Your Son, whom You love* <sup>14</sup> *and in whom we are redeemed and forgiven of our sins [through His blood].* – (The Voice)

**CONCLUSION:** A Matter of the Heart