

- B. It takes words to communicate this Gospel, to be sure, but it also takes a church that provides a hermeneutic for the Gospel.



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### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- “Praying in the Spirit” What else did Paul say about the Spirit in Ephesians and how might it inform what “praying in the Spirit” means?
- What might Henry Frost have meant by “an inseparable union between the Spirit, the Word and prayer”?
- How does what we “ask or imagine” factor into prayer?
- How important is Paul’s exhortation to “pray for all God’s people”? How are you doing in this regard? What practices might help us grow in this?
- Why would praying for all God’s people (the saints) promote peace, love, truth, and righteousness among us?
- How might Paul’s prayers, the Lord’s Prayer, or the Psalms, each teach us to pray for one another in different ways?
- Why might prayer be essential for growing a genuine Gospel culture?
- Why do we need prayer both to fearlessly proclaim the Gospel of peace and to live in such a way that people will understand it?
- Have you spent time in the “simulator” of prayer? How might this work? How would it better equip us, prepare us, for the day evil comes knocking?

## Imagining the Kingdom – 17: Praying with Kingdom Imagination

Jerry Cisar — October 1, 2023

Text: Ephesians 6:18-20

### Introduction

#### I. Praying with a Sanctified Imagination (Eph. 3:14-21)

##### A. 6:18-20 in Context of Ephesians

- i. *“All that we ask or imagine.”*

Henry Frost: “There is an inseparable union between the Spirit, the Word and prayer....”

- ii. The Word by the Spirit in prayer must flavor not only our individual imaginations but our corporate imagination—how we imagine *life together*.

##### B. The New Covenant speaks to this interaction between God’s Word, our own hearts and the Spirit’s work:

- i. Jer. 31:33
- ii. Eze. 36:26
- iii. Joel 2:28
- iv. Baptism and the Lord’s supper

### C. The Simulator of Praying with the Spirit

Albert Einstein: "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. It is, strictly speaking, a real factor in scientific research."

## II. Praying in the Spirit (6:18a)

### A. What does Paul mean in Ephesians by praying in the Spirit?

- i. Eph. 1:13
- ii. Eph. 1:17
- iii. Eph. 2:2
- iv. Eph. 2:18
- v. Eph. 3:4-6
- vi. Eph. 3:16
- vii. Eph. 4:3
- viii. Eph. 4:30
- ix. Eph. 5:18-19

## III. Praying for the Saints (6:18b)

### A. "The Lord's people" "holy people"

*We are to pray for the holy people who are becoming the holy place!*

### B. We are to pray for one another.

- i. Paul's prayers teach us ways to pray for them.
- ii. How we will grow as a community in love for one another, peace among us, patience toward each other if we are praying for one another.
- iii. The Lord prayer teaches us to pray for one another.
- iv. The Psalms

### C. The Importance of Praying for One Another

*Ants without pheromones are ants without a colony, and ants without a colony are barely ants at all.*

## IV. Praying to Reveal the Secret (6:19-20)

### A. What was that mystery? (3:4-6)