

Apostolic Prayer #7 - Romans 15:5-6 & 13

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:5-6 & 13 NKJV)

The context of this prayer is found in the chapter before it. (Rom.14:1-15:13). In this section, Paul taught kingdom principles to help believers honor one another when holding different views and convictions on various issues.

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. (Rom 14: 1-13 NJKV)

- Paul's main point in his instruction and prayer is that we must speak to each other with humility, honor, and a spirit of patience to enlighten the other believer rather than win our argument.
- There were more Gentile believers than Jewish in the first century Church. Most were unfamiliar with the law of Moses - its rituals, animal sacrifices, unclean things, special days, etc. Many devout Jews who came to a saving knowledge of Jesus had deep convictions about keeping the laws of Moses. There was great conflict over these issues in the early Church (**Acts 15**).

- Examples of issues that some sincerely debate and break relationship with one another over: Varying political views, wearing of masks (during COVID), use of vaccinations, the use of fire arms to protect life in the face of violence, civil disobedience, varying standards of entertainment (music, movies), use of tobacco, wine, or legal drugs, lifestyles (size of house, type of car, etc.), modesty, (clothing, makeup, jewelry etc.), domestic issues (home schooling, disciplining children, birth control) etc.
- Paul prayed that God would give unity to the saints as they are filled with joy, peace, and hope (**Rom. 15:5-6, 13**)

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. (Rom 14: 17-21 NKJV)

BREAKDOWN OF PAULS PRAYER IN ROM 15

The God of patience and comfort (15:5): We pray for revelation of God's heart of patience and a release of His comfort. The Spirit imparts these in and through our lives as we personally experience the Lord's patience and comfort in our weakness. We give to others out of what we receive from Him.

- One way He comforts us is by helping us gain His perspective of the "big picture" both for our life and in difficult circumstances. By having this perspective in our life, we are able to see His perspective or big picture for others - empowering us to be patient with them and to comfort them.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Cor 1: 3-4 NKJV)

Grant us to be like-minded (15:5): This is a prayer that He would grant us grace to reveal and express His patience and comfort that is stronger than all our disagreements and complaints against others.

- We pray that the Spirit inspires us to see and feel how He sees and feels towards others by opening the eyes of our heart to see them through the lens of His patience and graciousness.

That with one mind and mouth we may glorify God (15:6): In our mind, we are to see Gods narrative and perspective of what He is doing in His Church and in individual people. With our mouth we are to say what He says about people without complaining or slandering them.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to let us see, feel, and see what He sees, feels, and says about the people in our lives.

Fill us with all joy and peace (15:13): This prayer includes the Spirit empowering us to enjoy Jesus and His family, even in difficulties, by giving us more insight into the truth about Him and His leadership.

In believing (15:13): As our eyes are fixed on Jesus—His leadership and promises—and we understand that His eyes are on us, we grow in peace with confidence in Him.

That we may abound in hope (15:13): We ask for an impartation of hope or certainty about the future. This includes grasping more clearly what His plans are and what He is saying about our personal life, family, marriage, children, finances, ministry, city, nation, etc., even in the face of difficult circumstances. He is doing far more than we currently understand.

By the power of the Holy Spirit (15:13): We do not have the strength to sustain a positive mindset with confidence without the inspiration of Spirit. He supernaturally gives us hope from the written Word and by prophetic dreams and visions directly and from others.