

A Prayer for A Friend

Eph 3:14-19

The Promise Keeper movement has been a great opportunity for many men to become the men of God that they needed to be. By following the Seven Promises of the Promise Keeper, men have changed the lives of their families and the community they live in. But we all know that making promises is far easier than keeping them.

So how do we as men get the knowledge, strength, and ability to keep our promises? How do we as men grow in our relationship with our wives, children, and communities, to show the world a difference in a Godly man versus a worldly man? How do we communicate our commitment to God to those around us?

I believe that Paul outlined seven principles in Ephesians that I "A prayer for a Friend". If you want to become the man God intended you to be, you need to pray this prayer for yourself and for someone else, to encourage them in their walk.

1. **Vs. 16 HIS Riches not our Resources** – Paul says, according to the riches of His glory. How much better is it to have the indescribable riches of God's glory than our desires. We often think that we can do so much for God in our own strength when really what God wants is to work His Glory through His riches, using us as vessels, just conduits for His love. **Rom 11:33** O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
2. **Vs. 16 HIS Power not our Popularity** – God wants to strengthen us with His power through the Holy Spirit. We all too often think that our success and popularity is what wins souls for Christ, and that it is our own ability that keeps us doing God's work. The truth is it is only by God's grace and power that we can do anything for God. **Act 1:8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
3. **Vs. 17 HE may dwell in our Heart, not just our Heads** – It is one thing to get all the information that we can about living for God and yet another things to have the passion of the heart to live the committed life of a Christian. It take more that knowledge, it takes a relationship. **Jam 4:5** Or do you suppose it is in vain that the scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us"?

4. **Vs. 17 Grounded in Love and not Lust** – What I mean here by lust is what the Bible calls the “Lust of the eye”. The things that we think motivate us, but are empty. We need to carefully examine our motives and ask if we are motivated by God’s love in our hearts or by the lust of the eye, the things we accomplish and the success we have. Someone once said, “you only really believe that which motivates you”. How true it is. **1Jo 2:16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.
5. **Vs. 18 Sharing God’s love not Selfishly keeping it to ourselves** – Oh how often we pass up an opportunity to share with someone about what is important in our lives. How often we pass the open door some one gives us with a question or comment about God and religion just to be accepted? We know the fullness of the Love of God, and we need to tell others. **Mat 28:19-20** Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: **teaching** them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
6. **Vs. 19 Experience God’s Love, not just Envision it** – here we are commanded to Know the love of Christ. The only way to “know” the love of God is to get to “know” Him. It is a personal relationship that we must have if we are to experience that love. **Php 1:6** being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ: **Php 3:13** Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing *I do*, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, **Php 3:14** I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
7. **Vs. 19 God will Rule, not just Rest in our heart** – It is very easy as a Christian to ask Jesus into your heart, and then just leave Him there, hidden away for your daily tasks. God want to rule through His Holy Spirit and give you the ability to be victorious every day we live. **Col 3:15** says, “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. “