



The Book of Hebrews **Faith and Prayer**

Pray for us....

The preacher here asks for prayer and then prays for his hearers. And then shares a final exhortation benediction.

A. Prayer for Us: The Preacher and Leaders Heb 13:18-19

(1) **A good conscience:** The preacher is saying that he and the congregational leaders have been faithful in serving the Lord. Their desire to live honorably is the result of prayer—but needs continual prayer.

(a) **The importance of godly leadership:** Leadership in the Church is in crisis mode. Leaders need to be wholly committed to Christ and the Church needs to hold them before the Lord.

(2) **The Church at prayer:** The preacher links the congregation's prayer to his ability to come to them.

B. Prayer for Us: The Congregation Heb 13:20-21

After asking for prayer from the congregation the preacher now prays for them—and for all of us. He makes nine statements that reaffirm that God will meet our present trials and needs on the basis of the finished work of Christ.

(1) **The God of peace:** God is a God of peace who will answer our need for peace in the midst of trials. “And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” *Phil 4:7*

(2) **The resurrection:** We have victory over death and over our trials. ‘Lord’ emphasizes His deity and ‘Jesus’ His humanity. ‘Brought up’ serves to teach that no matter how ‘down’ (even death) we get—the Lord Jesus can bring us up.

(3) **The Great shepherd:** The Messiah would be the shepherd of the Lord's people. See John 10:11; 14; 1 Pet 2:25; 5:4 Hebrews teaches that the Great Shepherd surpasses all other leaders.

(4) **The blood of the Lamb:** The ‘eternal or everlasting covenant’ is the New Covenant in Jesus blood. There is power in the ‘blood.’

(5) **Made perfect:** It is through the blood of the Lamb that we are made complete or perfect. This is the past, present and future work of Christ. In the present He supplies all of our needs for His purpose.

(6) **Doing good:** This follows the theme of verse :16 where we are encouraged to ‘do good.’ Here...Jesus supplies the power for us to do good.

(7) **His will:** As with Phil 2:13 it is God that is working in us to accomplish His will and pleasure.

(8) **Through Jesus:** All things are done ‘through’ Jesus. That means unless it's not of Jesus it's not of God and it's of our own strength and power—the flesh.

(9) **His Glory:** Everything is for the Glory of God.

C. An Exhortation for Us: For All Heb 13:22-25

(1) **Receive the Word:** To ‘bear with’ here means to receive the Word that has been spoken through the preacher. Today we are to ‘discern’ the message spoken to us by preachers as was done in Acts 17:11. John 14:26 also teaches that it is the Holy Spirit that will ‘teach’ us all things. The preacher says that he has written in a ‘few words.’ This does not mean the number of words but the most concise way possible in explaining the message/theme of the entire book.

(2) **The Grace of God:** Will you receive the message of the Bible—His Word of grace? See Rom 5:1-5; Eph 2:8-9.

Hebrews 13:18-25 (NKJV)

18 Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.

19 But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.

23 Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.

24 Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

25 Grace be with you all. Amen.