

**AN EXAMINATION OF PRAYERS IN PAULINE
EPISTLES: CASE STUDY OF EPHESIANS**

**AN ESSAY PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
OGBOMOSO, OYO STATE OF NIGERIA.**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF DIVINITY IN
THEOLOGY**

BY
J. A. POPOOLA

OGBOMOSO NIGERIA
BAPTIST SEMINARY
J.C. POOL LIBRARY
BAPTIST SEMINAR
OGBOMOSO NIGERIA

JUNE, 2001

ABSTRACT

Prayer is the anchor of the believer's spirit to the throne of grace. Through prayer, the Christian maintains a personal father-child relationship with God in Christ Jesus, God the Son by the instrument of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. Confronted by the consistent and constant prayer life of the Saviour during His Incarnation, the disciples demanded that the Lord teach them to pray, which He did (Luke 11: 1 –4). The emphasis of the significance of prayer in the Christian life is also demonstrated in the life of Paul the apostle. The Holy Scriptures record that in all of his Letters, Paul prayed for the saints he addressed. All these were written for our instruction and example so that we through them might know the certainty of our faith and hope in God through Jesus Christ by the Spirit (Rom.. 15: 4).

All prayers may be grouped under three major categories – humiliation, supplication and adoration. The prayers of Paul cover these three broad groupings. It is the intent of this Essay to examine some of the prayers of Paul in his Letters, using Ephesians as a case study, with a view to presenting a model for Christian prayer both at the private and public levels. Our prayers today tend to be at variance with the pattern laid down by the Lord and followed by the early Church, especially by the great Apostle to the Gentiles. Watery and wordy, materialistic and mundane, Christian prayer today fail, most often, to draw on the nature and character of the Triune God who revealed Himself to us as Father in Christ Jesus. They are less inspired of the Holy Spirit and are more or less like the prayers of the Pharisees of old (Matt. 6: 5) who were rightly described by the Saviour as hypocrites.

It is hoped that this Essay will be of help to many who read it and bless such with a better insight into the importance and nature of a prayerful Christian life.

4.3. CONCLUSION

In his prayers, Paul gives us , like Jesus our Lord, a model to follow in prayers. We pray because he prays and because Jesus both prayed and prays for us, May the Lord teach us through His Spirit and teach us how to pray by His Spirit. (Luke 11:1: Is. 2;2-3). It is prayed that the Christian Prayed Model (CPM) presented by this thesis will have a place in our heart as individuals and Churches, lifting us alive in our prayers to God in Christ Jesus.