



GROWING – My Missional Heart 23rd August 2020 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

“We are all theologians. We read the Bible, and we make decisions about what we believe about the Bible.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

1. What do all of your theologies add up to?
2. Do they ultimately add up to you going out, sharing the good news and telling people about Jesus? If not, then there is definitely something wrong with your theology.
 - Paul deals with 2 issues:
The necessity of prayer
The focus of that prayer – that he would be empowered to preach the Gospel boldly

Engage:

3. Read and discuss [Ephesians 6:18-20](#)
4. Over the last couple of weeks, we have looked at Spiritual warfare. But as part of the application of the spiritual battle, what should we always do?
 - Within these verses Paul uses a phrase that we see elsewhere in his letters: ‘Praying in the Spirit’. Read [1 Corinthians 14:1-4](#) and [Romans 8:26-27](#) – Here Paul makes a distinction between praying with the mind of understanding and praying in or by the Spirit.
5. What does it mean to ‘pray with your mind’?
6. What is the primary reason for praying?
 - ‘Praying in the Spirit’ is something we do in the privacy of our devotional life. This type of prayer will include praise, thanksgiving, etc, but it also involves ‘groaning’s which cannot be uttered’.

“Never stop praying.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Framework:

7. Spirit empowered and Spirit directed prayer is what we should all be seeking to be involved in, but why?
 - [Jude 5:20](#) – We build ourselves up
 - [Romans 8:27](#) & [Ephesians 6:18b](#) – We build others up
 - You might know that Paul wrote this and other letters from his cell in Rome. Think about this. You are in a Roman prison. The death sentence is a very present reality. What be in your prayer in your letter? What would you write home?
 - Pauls priority for prayer is this ([verse 19](#)) - Above all else Paul wants them to pray that he will be emboldened to preach the Gospel wherever he had opportunity. Even in prison and even as he awaited his audience with Caesar.
For Paul, the goal of everything, is the Gospel.

“The Spirit empowers us in our ongoing conflict with the enemy by enabling the proclamation of the gospel in the midst of the conflict and by praying through us for one another and for the further spread of the Gospel.”

Gordon Fee

8. How often do you pray for the Gospel to impact people’s lives?
9. Paul’s focus was on the Gospel and what else?
 - Here in Ephesians praying in the spirit becomes an offensive weapon. A strategic and decisive weapon for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. That is because, at the centre of Pauls heart, was the Gospel, the mission.
10. In [Romans 10:1](#), Paul said this about his people: *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”* Ask yourself, why aren’t others becoming Christians? Why don’t people grow?
11. Discuss this question; Have we stopped becoming fishers of men and instead became keepers of the aquarium?

“As the church we need to go on the offensive and damage the kingdom of darkness. It is the purpose of the church.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

12. Remember Pastor Brian’s ‘3 Phrases of Ephesians’:

You were – You are – You should be

- Once **you were** lost, caught up in sin and destined for an eternal Christ-less eternity, suffering for ever and ever because of your sin.

But God intervened. And this is what God does, He does something that no one deserves. [Ephesians 2:4-9](#) says, *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”*.

You are alive together with Christ – born again, spiritually alive. Reigning with Him now in the heavenly places and destined to reign with Him in the new heaven and the new earth.

Therefore, **you should be**

Exercising that authority, flexing the spiritual muscles, taking up the Armour, moving forward with the sword of the spirit and praying in the spirit. Destroying the kingdom of darkness.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

- Witnesses – a word that appears over 30 times in the New Testament.

“And I was in complete agreement when your witness Stephen was killed. I stood by and kept the coats they took off when they stoned him.”

Acts 22:20 (Paul is defending himself)

13. To be a witness is to be a martyr. You may die physically, but ultimately the question is, will you die to yourself?
14. In this current situation, have you given in to fear rather than faith?
15. Is the Gospel your priority?
16. Do you carry the urgency of the hour?

Prayer:

“Father, help me to grow in prayer and to learn more about how to pray in the Spirit. Please give me a missional heart. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Extra Resources:

[Watch War Room \(DVD\)](#)

[Read ‘With Christ in the School of prayer’ by Andrew Murray](#)

[Read ‘Pray in the Spirit’ by Arthur Wallis](#)

[Read ‘Prayer’ by AW Tozer](#)

[Read ‘Fervent’ by Priscilla Shirer](#)

[Read ‘Hidden Warfare’ by David Watson](#)

[Read ‘Victorious Praying’ by Alan Redpath](#)

[Read ‘The Ministry of Intercession’ by Andrew Murray](#)