

# **Prayer Path - Simple Church Series**

## **Simple Church, Pt 1 - Keep it Simple (Acts 16/Philippians 1)**

We have often heard of the idea of paying it forward, but as we consider what the church simply is, it is about praying it forward; it is about a reciprocity of relationship; both with God and others. This is seen in Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. He tells this diverse group of people that when he thinks of them, he gives thanks to God, and that when he prays for them, he prays with joy because of their partnership in the gospel (Phil 1:3-6). Paul had impacted their lives and they had impacted his.

He reminded them that the investment made in their lives through him, would continue. God would be faithful to finish what He started in them. And Paul also said that what God was doing in and through his life, He would be faithful in seeing it through as well. The Message Bible puts it this way, "Through your faithful prayers and the generous response of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, everything he wants to do in and through me will be done" (Phil. 1:19).

This is what praying it forward is all about. You see, when you pray for others, God accomplishes what He wants to do in their lives, and through their lives, and often times, the result, is that others, in turn, pray for you, and God does what He wants to do in your life, and through your life. This is the simplicity of the complexity of prayer on display. Prayer is so simple, yet how God takes it and uses it, is so complex, the details so interwoven and intricate. It's amazing. Our part is simple - pray it forward; pray for others. Let God take care of the fine print of how everything will work out.

### **Questions**

1. What stood out to you from today's message?
2. What do you think about the idea of praying it forward?
3. Who can we partner with to advance the gospel?
4. Is there anyone in your life right now that's having a tough time as they serve the Lord? What are some things you can do to encourage them?

### **Scriptures**

John 17:6-26; Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 3:14-21; Eph. 6:10-18; Col. 1:9-12; James 5:16-17.

### **Challenge**

1. Contact someone this week and tell them you are praying for them specifically.
2. Get a journal and write out a prayer for someone else. Leave room to record how God worked in their lives, an answered prayer, etc.

### **Application**

When you walk through that door, keep it simple...give more than you should to people in your life. Advance the gospel, reach out to someone, and pray specifically for them.