



ROMANS

May 31, 2026

Striving Together in Prayer

Romans 15:30-33

Paul closes Romans with a passionate appeal for prayer. We often think of Paul as a great apostle, a missionary giant and a theologian. Yet even Paul pauses and pleads with ordinary believers for prayer. He says, "I beseech you... strive together with me in your prayers."

This is not casual prayer language. The words imply struggle, labor, partnership, and spiritual conflict. The language is intense. Paul is not talking about shallow religious routine. He is describing prayer as spiritual labor. Prayer is warfare. Prayer is burden-bearing. Prayer is ministry.

I want us to notice four truths about prayer from this passage.

1. You Should Ask for Prayer (v. 30)

Paul was an apostle, missionary, theologian, and church planter. Yet he openly confessed his need for prayer. Asking for prayer is not weakness; it is humility and wisdom.

- Romans 15:30 — "pray...for me"
- Ephesians 6:18-19 — "Pray...for me"
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1 — "Brethren, pray for us"
- Hebrews 13:18 — "Pray for us"

2. Prayer Is a Shared Ministry (v. 30)

Paul says: "Strive together with me..." Prayer is teamwork in the kingdom of God. The phrase "strive together" comes from the Greek word *sunagonizomai*:

- "agonize together"
- "contend together"
- "wrestle alongside"



Prayer joins believers together in spiritual labor.

- Acts 12:5 — the church prayed together for Peter
- 2 Corinthians 1:11 — “you also joining in helping us through your prayers”
- Philippians 1:19 — prayer supplied strength for Paul’s imprisonment

3. Prayer Is to Be Done in Earnest (v. 30)

Paul uses intense language:

- “beseech”
- “strive”
- “agonize”

Biblical prayer is often fervent and costly.

Jesus, our example: (Luke 22:41-44; John 17; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; Hebrews 5:7)

Other Earnest Prayer Texts: (Galatians 4:19; James 5:16; Colossians 4:12; Matthew 7:7)

4. Prayer Is to Be Specific (vs. 31-32)

1. Protection

“That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea”

2. Ministry Effectiveness

“That my service...may be accepted”

3. Fellowship and Refreshing

“That I may come unto you with joy... and may with you be refreshed”



Paul did not ask vaguely for “blessing.” He identified real needs.

Examples of specific prayer:

- Acts 4:29 — boldness to preach
- 1 Timothy 2:1–2 — prayer for rulers and peace
- Matthew 9:38 — laborers for the harvest

Specific prayers:

- deepen faith
- sharpen expectation
- make answers recognizable