

## Hebrews 13:18-21

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Introduction: An immediate opportunity to obey.

1. The Necessity of Prayer—not our idea to pray, but God’s!
  - a. As commanded
    - i. Prayer for prisoners, pastors, and pastor-prisoners.
    - ii. Following an example of good conscience, diligent living, and prayer
  - b. As demonstrated—if the apostle needed it, how much more do we?!
2. The Power of Prayer—not our will be done, but God’s!
  - a. Aren’t all God’s works known to Him from before the foundation of the world? What does prayer change?
  - b. “That I may be restored to you the sooner”: prayer results in outcomes, because that is the way God has planned to work.
3. The Confidence of Prayer—not our amen, but God’s!
  - a. The God of Peace. Benedictions are more than prayers. They are pronouncements (cf. Num 6:22-27)
  - b. Who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead (cf. Rom 4:25)
  - c. That great Shepherd of the sheep. The Good Shepherd, cf. John 10, Psalm 23.
  - d. The Blood of the Everlasting Covenant. (the themes of better—perfect!—blood and better—perfect!—covenant from earlier in the book)
  - e. Thoroughly furnish us for action, affection, and intention (theme of sanctification from earlier in the book)
  - f. Working in us what is well-pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ (the Apostle and High Priest of our confession)
  - g. To whom be glory forever and ever (bringing us back to the very beginning of the book!)

Conclusion: do you pray? Why do you pray? With what confidence do you pray?