

## Connection to Romans 15

Paul focused to the subject of prayer, urging the Christians in Rome to pray for him. Paul regularly requested prayers for himself and his ministry. This prayer reveals the heart and needs of a person committed to sharing the gospel with everyone.

## Introduction/Opening

Our prayers remain the greatest way we can support those we are sending out, invoking the very power of God to intervene in ways that are beyond our human limitations to save the lost. Within Paul's Letter to the Romans, we find three ways we can pray for missionaries.

## Outline

1. Pray for Their Protection (v. 31).  
Paul knew what awaited him in Judea. The Jewish leaders, who lived mostly in Judea, viewed Paul as a traitor and blasphemer. Him showing up in Jerusalem in the heart of Judea would open the door for these leaders to find a way to get Paul arrested and in trouble with the Roman authorities. He needed God's protection to fulfill the task at hand.
2. Pray that Their Ministry Would Be Received (v. 31).  
Paul was also concerned about his reception by believers in Jerusalem. He was on his way to deliver an offering collected in Macedonia and Achaia. Therefore, his second request was that the Roman Christians pray for acceptance from Jerusalem believers. While Paul's relationships with the Jerusalem apostles were apparently cordial enough at this point, his own letters reveal that various conservative Jewish-Christian groups continued to be hostile toward him.
3. Pray that They May Be Refreshed in the Lord (v. 32).  
Paul now requested prayer also for his visit to Rome. Only if his mission in Jerusalem succeeded would his voyage to Rome be possible. So he asked the Romans to pray that he may be protected and his gift be accepted in Jerusalem, not only because these things are important in and of themselves, but also so that by God's will he could come to them with joy and be refreshed together. Whatever reception he would be given in Jerusalem, he anticipated that afterward he would need the joy and refreshment which fellowship with the Roman Christians would bring.

## Conclusion

The great American preacher Adrian Rogers once said, “Prayer is not just getting ready for Christian service. Prayer *is* Christian service.” The church in prayer becomes a vital participant in a missionary’s work as individuals at home serve as effective intercessors and passionate advocates for our missionaries in prayer.

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