

# ***Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles***

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February 8, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

## ***Understanding the Context to Paul's Prayers in Romans 15 - Part 4***

### **Paul's Prayer in Romans 15:5-7**

Paul prayed for the Spirit's inspiration, that they might love one another as he taught in Romans 14.

"May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded...according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify God... Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God..."

Romans 15:5-7

**The God of patience and comfort:** We pray for revelation of God's heart of patience and a release of His comfort. The Spirit imparts these in and through our lives as we personally experience the Lord's patience and comfort in our weakness. We give to others out of what we receive from Him.

"...the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those... with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

**Grant us to be like-minded:** This is a prayer that He grant us grace to reveal and express His patience and comfort that is stronger than all our disagreements and complaints against others.

1. We pray that the Spirit inspires us to see and feel how He sees and feels towards others by opening the eyes of our heart to see them through the lens of His patience and graciousness.
2. The Spirit desires to empower His people to walk out kingdom community life as Jesus prayed in John 17:21-23. This is possible only by seeing people like He sees them.
  - a. "...that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."  
John 17:23
3. The like-mindedness here does not imply that everyone will agree on each issue but that we are like-minded in seeing the value and honor of one another through His eyes. New believers are not expected to have the same measure of light on spiritual things as mature Christians!

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**That with one mind and mouth we may glorify God:** In our mind, we are to see “the God narrative” or “His big picture” perspective of what He is doing in His Church and in individual people. With our mouth we are to say what He says about people without complaining or slandering them.

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to let us see, feel, and say what He sees, feels, and says about the people in our lives. We want to say what He says about one another.
2. The prayers of a man are hindered if he does not speak in godly way to his wife (1 Pet. 3:7).
  - a. “Husbands... dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered... Let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.”  
1 Pet. 3:7, 10