1. **Epaphras**, a fellow laborer of Paul and a fellow prisoner with Paul
2. Colossians 1:7 tells us that he was a leader of the church in Colossae who spoke & demonstrated the message of the gospel
3. Colossians 4:12 tells us that he was *“….****always wrestling in prayer*** *for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”*
4. Philemon 23 tells us that Epaphras was a fellow prisoner of Paul
5. **Prayerfulness** is the word that defined Epaphras’ life
6. He wrote no book or letter to the church
7. We don’t hear anything else about his life~ of miracles/signs/vision/etc….
8. What we know of his life is that he wrestled in prayer for the church of Colossae, not for revival to break out in the city of Colossae nor for salvation of souls. He prayed for the believers with a fervency.
9. His prison cell became a place of sweet fragrance before the Lord as he labored in prayer
10. He knew to align himself with the Lord in attitude and practice in such a way that he prayed effectively, praying not simply for what he wanted but for what God wanted.
11. God’s strategy for winning the lost is the church walking in the anointing of God ~ we pray for the church, not for the lost, not for the transformation of society, not for revival
12. From Samaritan’s Purse devotional, “Someone has said that satan’s orders are ‘fight not with small or great, but only with the praying people’”.
13. Epaphras was a disciple of Paul
14. **Praying for believers with earnestness**
15. God loves His whole body & He is not embarrassed by the weakest family member
16. I Corinthians 12 & Ephesians tell us who we are to Him and who we are to eachother
17. “*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Chirst. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body~ whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free~ and we were given the one Spirit to drink*.” I Cor. 12:12-13
18. Ephesians 1:22-23 tells us that the church, His body is the “*fullness of Him who fills everything in everyway”*

* Adam Clarke says “to be filled with God is a great thing; to be filled with the fullness of God is still greater, but to be filled with ALL THE FULLNESS of God bewilders the sense and confounds the understanding”
* To be filled unto the fullness of God means there are NO gaps where His fullness doesn’t fill

1. Ephesians 2:19-22 tells us that God lives in His people, the church. We are a “*holy temple…a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit*”.
2. Ephesians 3:10 tells us the “*manifold wisdom of God*” is in the midst of God’s people

* The angelic beings are interested & instructed by the lives of the believers (the church); angelic and demonic beings are looking on and God intends to teach them through us
* Christ’s body is the literal expression of Jesus on the earth~ in every sphere of society we display His multi-dimensions of His wisdom

1. Ephesians 3:20-21 tells us that we are the Glory of the Father, “…*glory in the church and in Christ Jesus…”*
2. Ephesians 4:11-13 tells us that we are to “*become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ*.”

* The work of the Spirit is to build up the church

1. Ephesians 5:3 tells us we are “*God’s holy people*” and because we are holy we are to live according to His Kingdom
2. John 17, Jesus prays that we would be ONE. “*I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one, I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”* (verse 22-23)
3. **The body of Christ is precious and holy to the Lord**
4. Acts 9~ Saul’s Damascus Road experience
5. “*As he (Saul) neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ Jesus replied*…..” Acts 9:3-5
6. Jesus is equating Himself with His people
7. **How to respond:**
8. Pray to receive a greater revelation of His body ~ how He feels about us corporately
9. We all have weakness
10. We all get things wrong
11. We look for the agreement
12. Pray for the Word of God to be opened up over the lives of the pastors
13. From Mike Bickle’s teaching on the Apostolic Prayers: Pray from the apostolic prayers in NT for the body in our city church
14. These prayers transform our hearts and give us love for those we pray for
15. Provides good theology for a victorious church ~ not one of these prayers will fall to the ground
16. These prayers bring anointed preaching & worship
17. Pray for the impartation of something good, not the removal of that which is bad
18. Release holiness, purity, peace, love, faith, unity, etc.
19. Not remove fear, immorality, strife, etc.

“*Epaphras, who is one of you and a bond-servant of Jesus, sends you his greetings. He is always striving for you in his prayers, praying with genuine concern, that you may as a people of character and courage, stand firm, spiritually mature and fully assured in all the will of God*.” Colossians 4:12 (Amplified)