

¹⁰always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you ...
¹³I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

Remember last week we discussed Paul's prayer life as personal, through Jesus, for others. A 4th:

Submission to the Will of God

The persecuting, blaspheming, *murdering* Saul of Tarsus was met by the risen Lord on the Road to Damascus and changed into the humble Apostle Paul.

Paul had to *wait*

- Paul's desires were not immediately met. (v.10 asking that somehow... succeed in coming... v. 11 I long to see you... v. 13 often intended)

Paul not only desired, but *planned* to come to visit the Romans

- v10 always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.
- Rom. 15:22-33

“making request, if by any means now at length **I may be prospered** by the will of God to come unto you” (Rom. 1:10, English Revised Version).

“always in my prayers entreating that now, at length, if such be His will, *the way may by some means be made clear* for me to come to you” (Rom. 1:10, Weymouth New Testament).

No matter how much Paul desires something he waits until the way is made clear by God and he is sure it is God's will.

He accepts *hindrances* because he knows God uses them to guide him, “but thus far have been prevented” (v. 13).

Why was Paul hindered from coming to Rome? (Rom. 15:14-24).

Satan hinders Paul (1 Thess. 2:18).

The Holy Ghost hinders Paul (Acts 16:6-7)

How do we make decisions? Reason, common sense, understanding, other people, opinions - all legitimate, but do not ignore a door God shuts.

Should we continue to pray though we are continually hindered? (v. 9).

How did Paul eventually end up in Rome? (Acts 25:11-12).

Man proposes, but God disposes. Make your requests known to God and submit to His will.

Luke 22:42 - Jesus is our great example! Pray submissively.