

Paul's Powerful Prayer for the Church

Ephesians 3:14-21

One28 Ministries



Ephesians

Author

The Apostle Paul

Audience

Faithful Christians in Ephesus

Temple of Artemis at Ephesus



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Theme

The Eternal Plan of God

Or... Believers' Position and Practice in Christ

Ephesians – An Outline

I. A Believer's Position in Christ (1:1-3:13)

(An Explanation)

II. A Believer's Practice in Christ (4:1-6:24)

(An Exhortation)

A Tale of Two Sanctifications...

Positional Sanctification

An instantaneous act of God that happens at salvation in which He declares one righteous, and places them in Christ.

Progressive Sanctification

A gradual process throughout the life of a believer which they become more like Christ, increasing holiness by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians – An Outline

I. A Believer's Position in Christ (1:1-3:13)

A. Exaltation for (1:3-14)

B. Prayer for Enlightenment (1:15-23)

C. Explanation of (2:1-3:13)



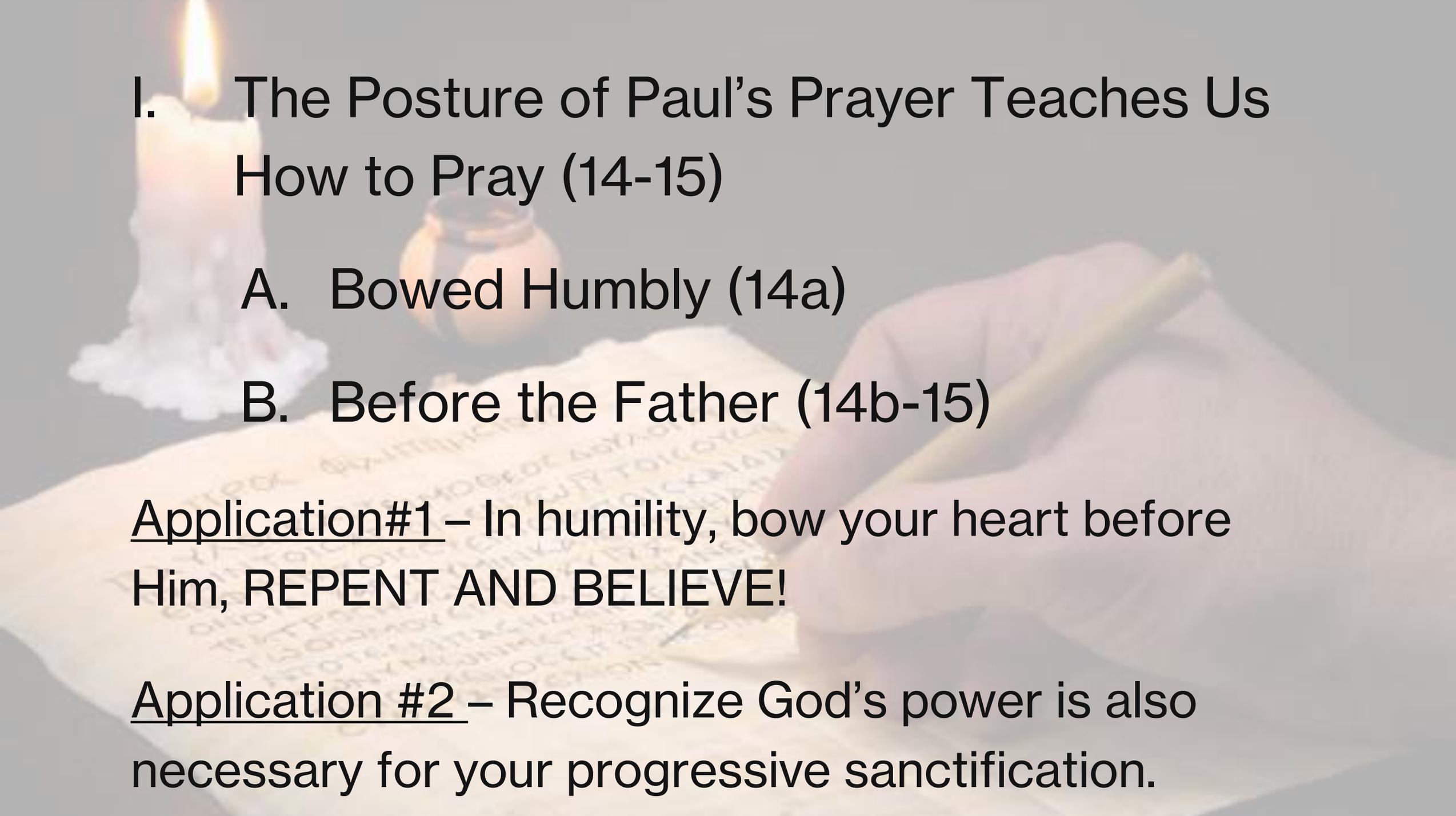
D. Prayer for Empowerment (3:14-21)

II. A Believer's Practice in Christ (4:1-6:24)

A. Exhortation to

Theme

Paul prays that God would empower the Ephesian believers to walk in a manner worthy of their position in Christ, teaching us to pray powerfully for the Church and providing insight into how we are progressively sanctified.



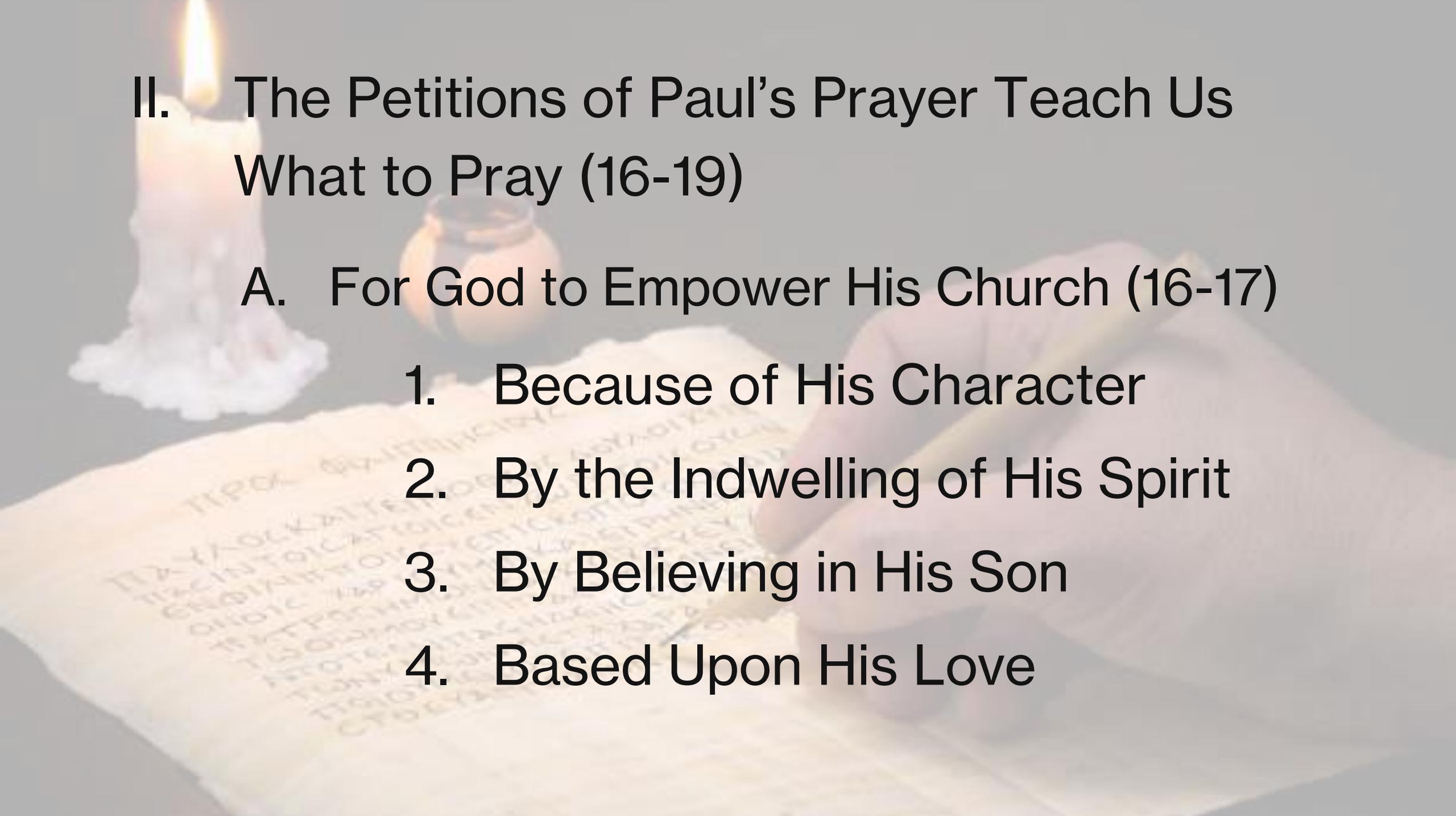
I. The Posture of Paul's Prayer Teaches Us
How to Pray (14-15)

A. Bowed Humbly (14a)

B. Before the Father (14b-15)

Application#1 – In humility, bow your heart before
Him, **REPENT AND BELIEVE!**

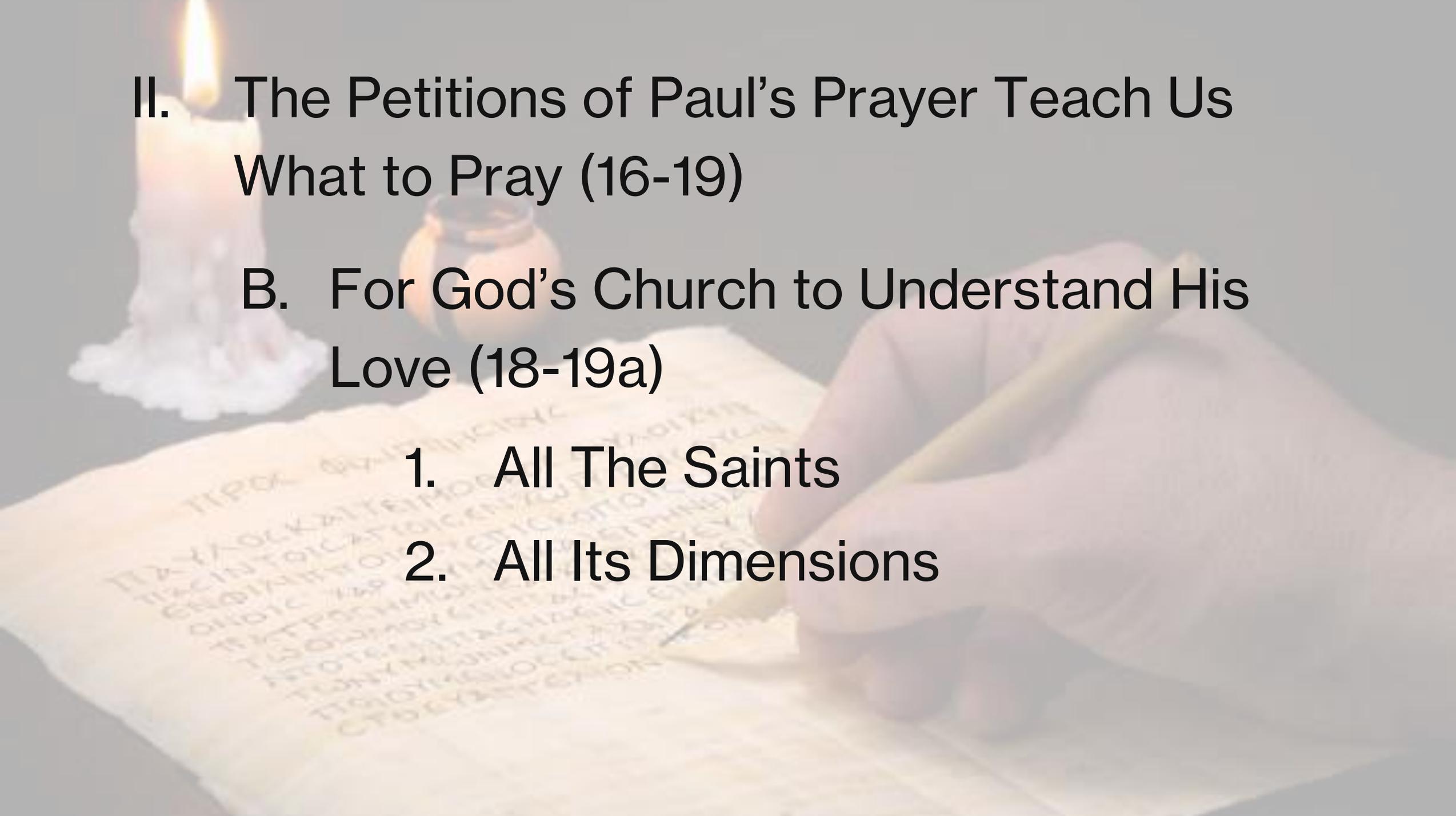
Application #2 – Recognize God's power is also
necessary for your progressive sanctification.



II. The Petitions of Paul's Prayer Teach Us What to Pray (16-19)

A. For God to Empower His Church (16-17)

1. Because of His Character
2. By the Indwelling of His Spirit
3. By Believing in His Son
4. Based Upon His Love



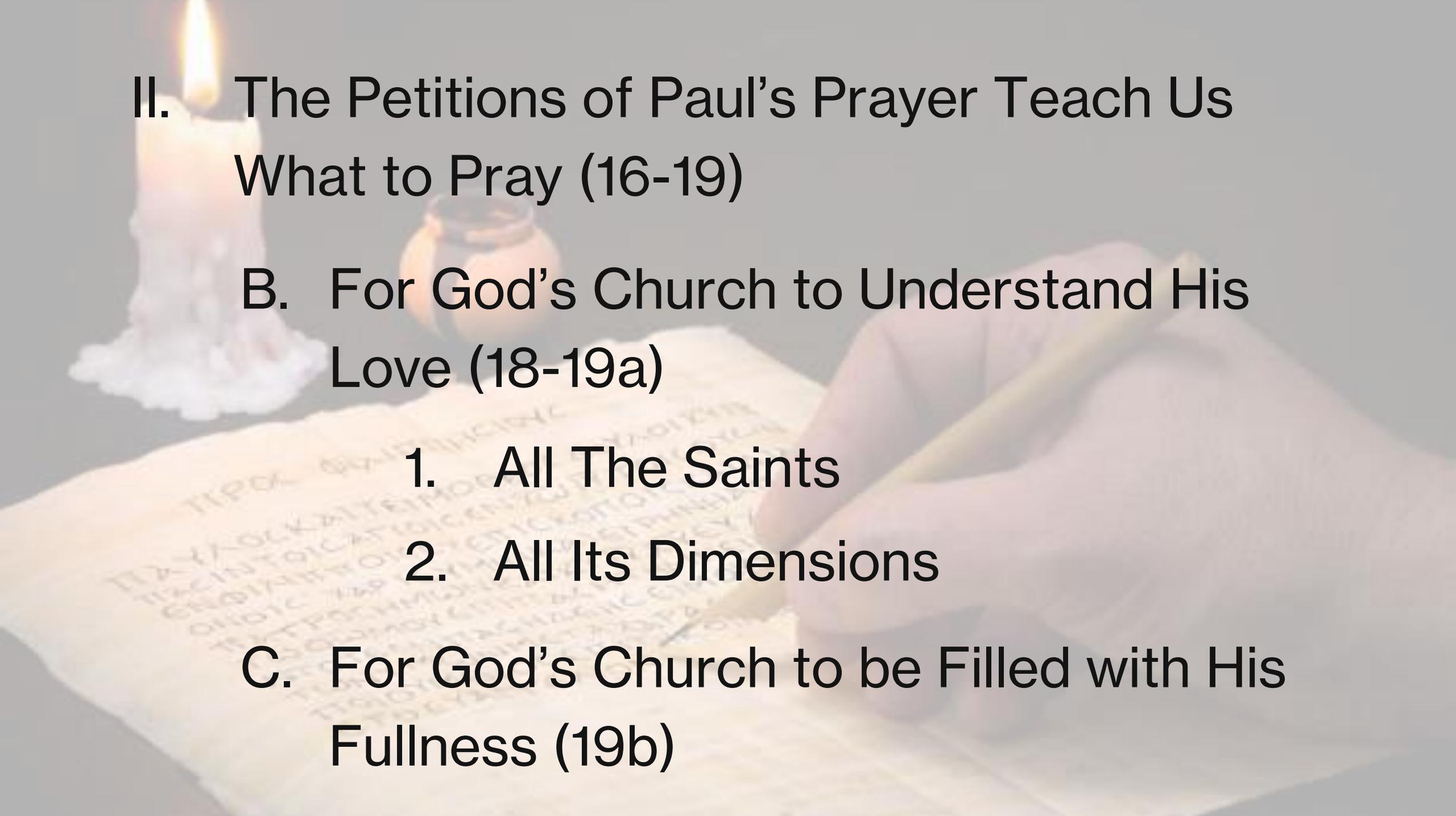
II. The Petitions of Paul's Prayer Teach Us
What to Pray (16-19)

B. For God's Church to Understand His
Love (18-19a)

1. All The Saints
2. All Its Dimensions

Lubbock, TX



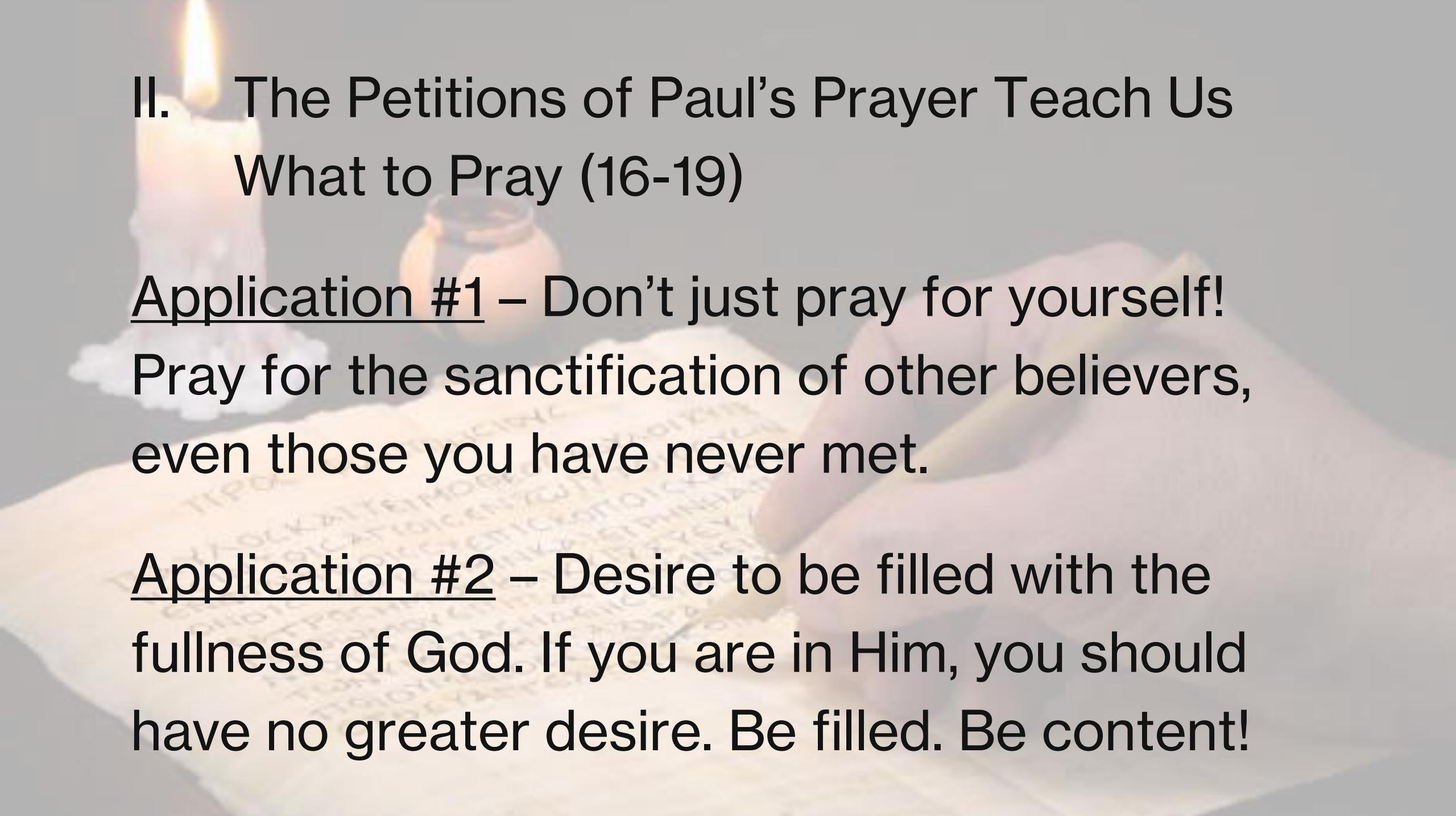
A lit candle in a white holder is on the left. In the center, a hand holds a quill pen over an unrolled scroll with faint, illegible text. A small jar is visible behind the scroll.

II. The Petitions of Paul's Prayer Teach Us What to Pray (16-19)

B. For God's Church to Understand His Love (18-19a)

1. All The Saints
2. All Its Dimensions

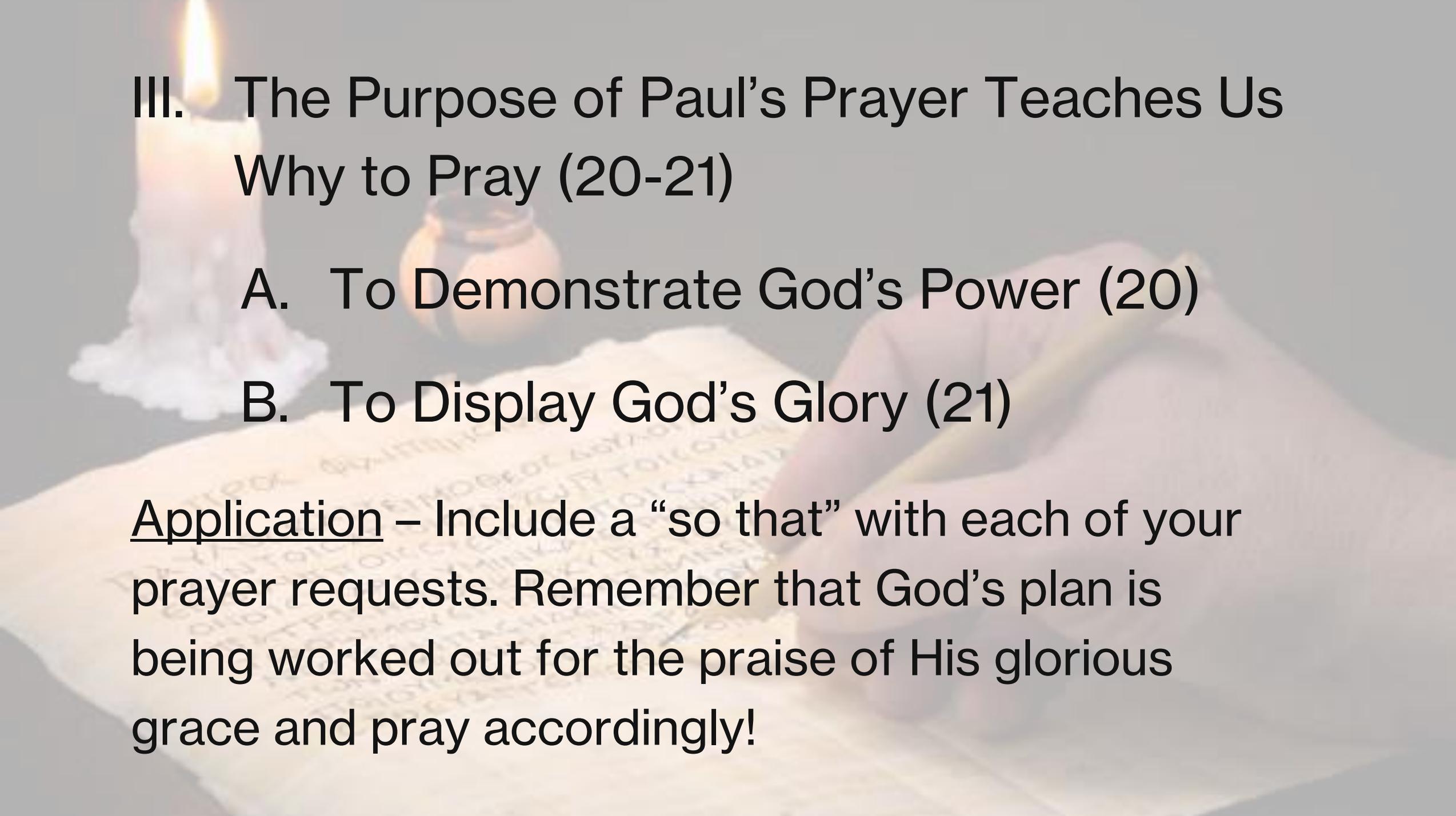
C. For God's Church to be Filled with His Fullness (19b)

A lit candle is on the left, casting a warm glow. In the center, a small jar sits on a surface. On the right, a hand is writing on a scroll with a quill pen. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light.

II. The Petitions of Paul's Prayer Teach Us What to Pray (16-19)

Application #1 – Don't just pray for yourself!
Pray for the sanctification of other believers,
even those you have never met.

Application #2 – Desire to be filled with the
fullness of God. If you are in Him, you should
have no greater desire. Be filled. Be content!

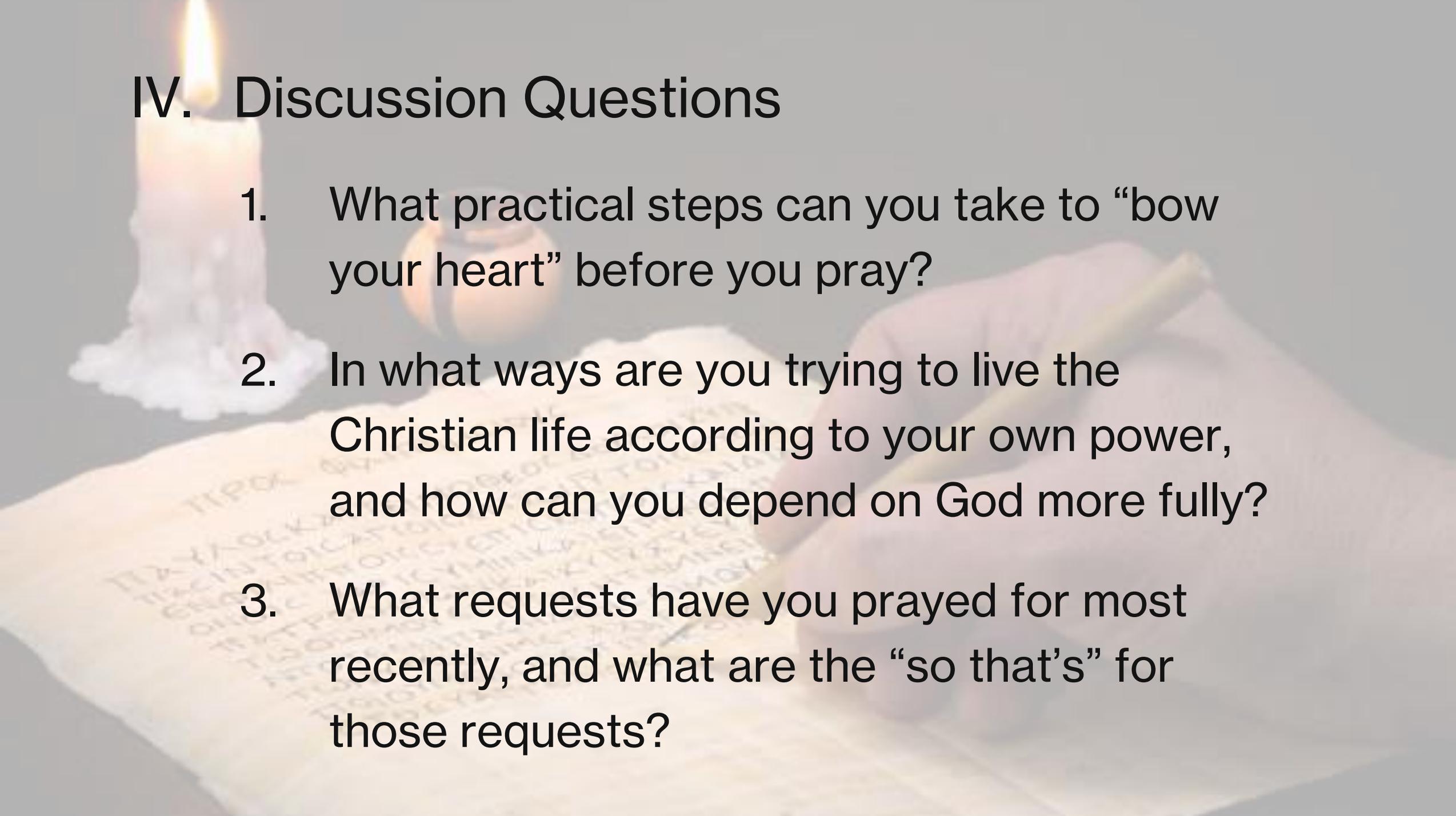
A lit candle in a white holder is on the left. In the center, a small glass jar sits on a surface. In the foreground, an open book is visible with a hand pointing to a specific line of text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

III. The Purpose of Paul's Prayer Teaches Us Why to Pray (20-21)

A. To Demonstrate God's Power (20)

B. To Display God's Glory (21)

Application – Include a “so that” with each of your prayer requests. Remember that God's plan is being worked out for the praise of His glorious grace and pray accordingly!



IV. Discussion Questions

1. What practical steps can you take to “bow your heart” before you pray?
2. In what ways are you trying to live the Christian life according to your own power, and how can you depend on God more fully?
3. What requests have you prayed for most recently, and what are the “so that’s” for those requests?