A Life of Prayer

Would you describe personality as an in-control person or an out-of-control person? How does your personality affect your prayer life?

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[f] toward all the saints, **16** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might **20** that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

1. This portion of Ephesians is a powerful prayer by Paul. What does a powerful prayer sound like? Why should our prayers contain thanks?
2. When do we pray, where do we pray, why do we pray? What is it that motivates us to pray?
3. In Ephesians 3:16-19 Paul prays for spiritual strength through the Holy Spirit, faith in Jesus and love of God. How does knowing that we are rescued by Jesus, indwelt by the Spirit and love by God help us to pray?
4. There is an oft-repeated phrase; 'God helps those who help themselves'. Do you think Paul believed this phrase?
5. What do the emotions of love, fear, hurt, anxiety or any emotion move you to pray? Do emotions move you to action?
6. Have you been in a life's circumstance where after all your efforts you have nothing left but prayer? What was the outcome of your prayers?