

PRAYING FOR THE THINGS WE REALLY NEED

COLOSSIANS 1:9-11

FRANK GONZALEZ



Colossians 1:9-11 Kolosenským 1:9-11

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully”

“Preto aj my odo dňa, ako sme to počuli, neprestávame sa modliť za vás a prosiť, kiez ste naplnení poznaním Jeho vôle vo všetkej múdrosti a duchovnej rozumnosti, ¹⁰ aby ste chodili hodní Pána, na Jeho úplnú lúbošť, prinášajúc ovocie v každom dobrom skutku, rastúc v poznaní Boha, ¹¹ všemožne posilňovaní mocou Jeho slávy ku všetkej vytrvalosti a trpezlivosti “

Introduction: It goes without saying that prayer is a central element of the Christian life. But thought that is something that we know it is important to be reminded not only of its' importance but also the importance of its contents. In other words when we pray, what sort of things do we pray for? There are some basic things that we pray for people and ourselves on a regular basis. Things like health, God's blessing, personal guidance, provision, specific personal needs and situations, salvation for non-believers we know. Though these things are all good and should be covered in prayer there are things of a more spiritual nature that are at the heart of each of these matters. We see this exemplified throughout scripture but especially in Paul's prayers that are interwoven in his epistles.



I. Unceasing Prayer (v9a): *^{9a}For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you,*



Paul's Commitment to Prayer: *...do not cease to pray for you...* Paul was telling the Christians in Colosse that he and his ministry team had been faithfully praying for them since they had heard about their existence. This is a wonderful example of a Christian's commitment to prayer.

Our Commitment to Prayer: Prayer is not something that we should do on a random basis. Instead it should be something that we are deeply devoted to.

Spiritually Focused Prayer (v9b): ^{9b}and to ask that you may be *filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...* Though we often pray for physical needs and situations it is important for us focus on spiritual things as well.



Paul prayed for genuine spiritual needs: In this prayer Paul was asking the Lord to fulfill some truly genuine spiritual needs in the lives of the Christians in Colosse. These are things that he knew they as Christian's could not do without.

The Need to Know God's Will: *...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will...* The Christian's need to know God's will is something so basic and obvious that it can be easy to overlook or even take lightly.

The Right Perspective: As Christians we need to concern ourselves with both the general will of God and the specific will of God for our lives. In regard to His general will, we need to be students of scripture and always ask the question, “What does the word say about this matter?” In regard to His specific will we should always prayerfully consider every important decision that we make.



What Paul was asking for? Paul was taking this issue a little deeper still in his prayer. He was asking the Lord to give the Colossians an accurate knowledge of God's will for them in each situation that they found themselves in. That is the type of full knowledge of His will that we need. He was asking God to FILL them with this knowledge.

What type of knowledge fills our minds? I am filled with useless facts.

God's will is knowable: It's not some mysterious unknowable thing. God's general will is learn by learning His word, His specific will can be discovered through prayer.

The Need to Apply God's Will: ...*all wisdom and spiritual understanding*... As important as knowing the will of God is, we must also understand what to do with it if it is to make a difference in our lives.

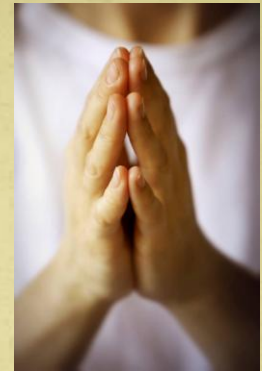


Knowledge accompanied by wisdom: Wisdom tells us how to take the things we know and apply them in a practical way. Paul is asking for is a full wisdom for each specific situation in which God reveals His will in.

Knowledge accompanied by spiritual understanding: The Greek word here literally means *a running together*, like two rivers. It communicates the perfect joining of knowledge and wisdom to the degree that it can be fully applied and appreciated. This is different than fleshly understanding which only understands things through the eyes of the flesh. That type of understanding will lead us to miss what God is wanting to do because it simply cannot comprehend anything in the spiritual realm.

God's will is Doable: It's not some unattainable thing. With the help of the Holy Spirit we are able to do the things that God wants us to do in the way that God wants us to do them.

Effective Prayer: ¹⁰*that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and long-suffering with joy;*



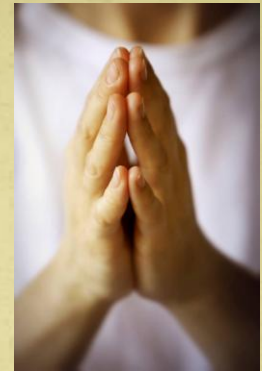
Paul prayed with the intention of effecting people's lives:

Effecting the way they live: ...¹⁰*that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him...* Term walk is used in scripture to describe a person's manner of living. To walk worthy of the Lord doesn't mean to walk so righteously that we become worthy but to walk in such a way that we honor God. When our lives honor God we please Him. Knowing His will and how to apply it make it possible for us to live a life that brings honor to God.

Our lives can honor God: Though we are all sinners who are far from perfect, our lives can honor the God of the universe. This is an amazing truth when we stop to consider it.

Effecting their spiritual development: ...*being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;* One of God's ultimate desires for us is to bear fruit (John 15; Galatians 5). But the type of fruit that God wants is the type that Paul is praying for here. It is fruit that is evidenced by good works. Our fruit is seen in the things that we do. The natural result of a fruitful life is growth in our understanding of God. The more fruit we bear the more God reveals Himself to us.

Effecting their ability to endure life's troubles: *"strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all **patience and long-suffering** with **joy***; Ultimately this all leads to a strengthened life. Paul is asking God to spare no expense in this and to provide all that we need to patiently endure the troubles of life. Moreover the type of strength that brings us joy in such times.



Knowing and doing God's will changes us: The will of God has and transforming effect upon our lives.

SUMMARY: When we pray it's important for us to pray for the things that we really need. Even though we thought we can and should pray for the physical issues in life, it is important to remember that God has a purpose for each of them that is spiritual. In short, Paul was asking the Lord to help the Colossians to spiritually face whatever situation they were by knowing God's will for them in it and acting upon the things He shows them.

