

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹Because of this, since the day we heard, we have not stopped praying for you. We constantly ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual insight, ¹⁰so that you may walk in a manner that is worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: by bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹We also pray that you may be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have endurance and patience with joy. ¹²We give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, who rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:9-14)

Paul's Prayer Requests (that are a model for us!)

1. To be filled with the knowledge of God's will (1:9)

- a. [For the purpose of] walking in a manner worthy of the Lord that pleases Him (1:10)
 - i. Bearing fruit in every good work (Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16)
 - 1. What is "fruit?"
 - a. tangible evidence of God's work in and through us
 - i. spiritual growth (John 15:4-5- abiding in Christ)
 - ii. holiness (fruit of the Spirit)
 - iii. eternal impact (ministry)
 - ii. Increasing in the knowledge of God
 - 1. Deepening our capacity for fellowship with God
 - 2. Deepening our faith (our faith grows/declines in proportion to the *object* of our faith)

2. To be strengthened with God's power (1:11)

- a. For *endurance* (Gk. word implies difficult circumstances)
- b. For *patience* (Gk. word implies difficult people)
- c. "with joy"- knowing that God uses circumstances and people to create the kind of fruit that Paul discusses in v. 9-10.
- d. Romans 15:5-6- endurance comes from God and helps us to labor in unity and glorify God *together*. We need God's strength to do this!

3. "With Thanksgiving"

- a. Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God,"
- b. Primarily for God's work in *salvation*. He has:
 - i. Rescued us from the domain of darkness (1:13; think OT Israel/Egypt rescue)
 - ii. Transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son (1:13)
 - iii. Redeemed us from our bondage (1:14, rescue by means of *payment*)
 - iv. Forgiven our sins (1:14)

Main Idea: Paul and Timothy pray *regularly* for the church at Colossae. They don't pray that they will be successful (acc. to worldly standards), physically healthy, or safe. They pray that they will *know* God's will so that they can *walk* in a way that pleases Jesus and bears eternal fruit. Is that how we pray for each other? Is that how we pray for our church? Or kids? Other believers?