

## Three Areas of Prayer for Spiritual Growth

---

### Colossians 1:9-12

---

**BGT** <sup>9</sup> Διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἡμεῖς, ἀφ’ ἧς ἡμέρας ἠκούσαμεν, οὐ παύομεθα ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν προσευχόμενοι καὶ αἰτούμενοι, ἵνα πληρωθῆτε τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ ἐν πάσῃ σοφίᾳ καὶ συνέσει πνευματικῇ, <sup>10</sup> περιπατῆσαι ἀξίως τοῦ κυρίου εἰς πᾶσαν ἀρεσκείαν, ἐν παντὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ καρποφοροῦντες καὶ αὐξάνομενοι τῇ ἐπιγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ, <sup>11</sup> ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει δυναμούμενοι κατὰ τὸ κράτος τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ εἰς πᾶσαν ὑπομονὴν καὶ μακροθυμίαν. Μετὰ χαρᾶς <sup>12</sup> εὐχαριστοῦντες τῷ πατρὶ τῷ ἰκανώσαντι ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν μερίδα τοῦ κλήρου τῶν ἁγίων ἐν τῷ φωτί·

**NKJ** <sup>9</sup> For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [Him], being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

---

**My Identity as an INDIVIDUAL (Colossians 1:1)**

**My Identity as Part of a GROUP (Colossians 1:2)**

**Three Realms of a Believer’s Walk (Colossians 1:3-8)**

- Their Faith: Their Ongoing Belief in the Savior
- Their Love: Their Active Care of the Saints
- Their Hope: Their Forward Focus on Eternal Rewards

#### 1. Paul’s Praying

do not cease to pray for you,

οὐ παύομεθα ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν προσευχόμενοι

#### 2. Paul’s Asking

**End result – in order that you might be filled with the complete knowledge of His will (desire)**

and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will

καὶ αἰτούμενοι, ἵνα πληρωθῆτε τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ

- **Subjunctive – possible but not guaranteed**
  - Requires prayer – asking God for help
  - Requires purpose – choosing to desire this
- **Subjective – each individual receiving “precise and correct knowledge” [Thayer]**

**Three Areas of Prayer for Spiritual Growth**

#### A. Worthy Walking

in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [Him],

ἐν πάσῃ σοφίᾳ καὶ συνέσει πνευματικῇ, περιπατῆσαι ἀξίως τοῦ κυρίου εἰς πᾶσαν ἀρεσκείαν,

- **In all wisdom and spiritual understanding – principles**
- **To be walking – principled practice**
  - Col 2:6 – faithful, informed walking
  - Col 3:7 – former walking
  - Col 4:5 – strategic walking
- **Worthy of the Lord – principled practice for a purpose**
  - Eph 4:1 – walk worthy of your calling
  - Phil 1:17 – walk worthy of the gospel of Christ (in unity)
  - 1 Thes 2:12 – walk worthy of the God who calls you
- **Unto all [things] a desire to please – intent to please in every area at all times**

## B. Fruitful Working

being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;  
 ἐν παντὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ καρποφοροῦντες καὶ αὐξανόμενοι τῇ ἐπιγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ,

- **In each good work – extent**
  - **Col 1:21 – former working**
  - **Col 3:17 – worshipful working**
- **Being fruitful**
  - **Luke 8:15 – fruitful soil – hearing, holding, bearing**
- **Being increased in the knowledge of God (doing brings learning – Heb 5)**
  - **Col 2:19 – growth of the body happens as the body parts work together**
  - **1 Pet 2:2 – desire the Word, that you may be increased by it**

## C. Empowered Doing

strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;  
 ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει δυναμούμενοι κατὰ τὸ κράτος τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ εἰς πᾶσαν ὑπομονὴν καὶ μακροθυμίαν. Μετὰ χαρᾶς

- **In every ability (effort?)**
- **Enabled**
  - **Col 1:29** – To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.  
 εἰς ὃ καὶ κοπιῶ ἀγωνιζόμενος κατὰ τὴν ἐνέργειαν αὐτοῦ τὴν ἐνεργουμένην ἐν ἐμοὶ ἐν δυνάμει.
- **Resource – God’s might (dominion)**
  - **Eph 6:10** – Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.  
 Τοῦ λοιποῦ, ἐνδυναμοῦσθε ἐν κυρίῳ καὶ ἐν τῷ κράτει τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ.
- **Goal – all endurance, longsuffering, with joy**
  - **2 Thes 3:5**
  - **Heb 10:36**
  - **Heb 12:1**
  - **James 1:2-4**
  - **Col 3:12-13**

## 3. Paul’s Giving Thanks

<p>Διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἡμεῖς,                  ἀφ’ ἧς ἡμέρας ἠκούσαμεν,                  οὐ παύομεθα ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν                  προσευχόμενοι καὶ                  αἰτούμενοι,                  ἵνα πληρωθῆτε τὴν <b>ἐπίγνωσιν</b> τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ                  ἐν <b>πάσῃ</b>                  σοφίᾳ καὶ                  συνίεσει πνευματικῇ,  <b>περιπατήσαι</b> ἀξίως τοῦ κυρίου                  εἰς <b>πᾶσαν</b> ἀρεσκείαν,                  ἐν <b>παντὶ</b> ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ                  καρποφοροῦντες καὶ                  αὐξανόμενοι                  τῇ <b>ἐπιγνώσει</b> τοῦ θεοῦ,                  ἐν <b>πάσῃ</b> δυνάμει                  δυναμούμενοι                  κατὰ τὸ κράτος                  τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ                  εἰς <b>πᾶσαν</b>                  ὑπομονὴν καὶ                  μακροθυμίαν. Μετὰ χαρᾶς</p> <p><b>εὐχαριστοῦντες</b>                  τῷ πατρὶ τῷ ἰκανώσαντι ὑμᾶς                  εἰς τὴν μερίδα                  τοῦ κλήρου                  τῶν ἁγίων                  ἐν τῷ φωτί·</p>	<p>On account of this also we,                  from which day we heard,                  not we are ceasing on behalf of you                  praying and                  asking,                  in order that you {pl} might be filled with the knowledge of the will of him  <b>in all (PRACTICE – worthy walking – what)</b>                  wisdom and                  understanding {insight} spiritual,                  to walk {aor inf} worthily of the Lord                  unto all [things] a desire to please,  <b>in {into?} all [things?] a work good (PRODUCE – fruitful working)</b>                  bearing fruit and                  being increased                  in the knowledge of the God,  <b>in all [things?] power (POWER – empowered effort – how)</b>                  being empowered                  according to the might {force}                  of the glory of him                  unto all                  endurance and                  longsuffering. Amid {meta} joy,                  giving thanks                  to the father to the one who made sufficient {aor part} { renders fit} us                  unto the share {part}                  of the called [one]                  of the holy [ones]                  in {by} the light;</p>
---	--