

# **Apostolic Prayer #4 - Col 1:9-12**

***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; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. (Col 1:9-12 NKJV)***

Paul prayed for believers to be filled with the knowledge of His will, which will produce wisdom, understanding, and a life that is worthy and pleasing to the Lord. Bear with me on this one. There is A LOT of content in this prayer.

- Notice Paul says that he did not cease to pray this, knowing that the Spirit would do more in them as he prayed more. This is insight into how we need to remain persistent and never stop ceasing from asking God for these realities to manifest more and more in our lives.

## **WALKING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WILL (Col 1:9)**

- The general will of God refers to the basic things that are important for all believers to know—it includes what His Word reveals regarding who we are to Him, how we are to live, what we are to believe Him for, and what His main kingdom purposes are. Here are a few ways increasing in the knowledge of His will enriches our lives.
  1. Our highest purpose in life is to receive and express God's love back to Him in conversation and to others in our words and actions. This comes before seeking to make an impact or to be successful in outward acts or assignments.
  2. The knowledge of God's will helps us understand what He is doing in our personal life, our assignments, the church, our city, nation, etc.
  3. The Lord's assignments in our life change in various seasons of our life. It is important to have clarity and confidence in where to invest our time and resources.

## **IN ALL WISDOM AND SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING (Col 1:9)**

- Receiving WISDOM is receiving insight on how to practically walk out God's assignment in each season of our lives. Things like (but not limited to) how much

of our time and resources we are to invest in our family, other relationships, and in various ministry activities, or business projects, etc.

- Receiving UNDERSTANDING includes receiving insight on how to interpret what is happening from God's point of view. In seasons of blessing, and seasons of decrease we must walk in understanding of what God is doing and how He sees things.
- The sons of Issachar understood the times, in that they saw what God was doing in His prophetic purposes in each season, and they knew what to do and what Israel should do in practical action. God wants us to have that spirit on us.

***The sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do. (1 Chr 12:32 NKJV)***

### **THAT YOU MAY WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD, FULLY PLEASING HIM (Col 1:10)**

The main goal of UNDERSTANDING God's will is to please Him.

- Believers are blessed with the miracle of being empowered to please God. It is beyond comprehension that the God of the universe can be pleased by our weak actions. Paul indicated that this was one of the main reasons he was motivated in his prayer for the believers to receive the knowledge of His will.
- **WALKING WORTHY OF THE LORD** is to walk in agreement with His heart and ways. We are to have a worthy response to God by resisting compromise and embracing God's ways, this will prepare us to walk worthy and in the fullness of all He has and wants for us.
- One important way to pursue this is by intentionally and diligently pursuing the anointing of grace to love Jesus with all of our heart—that the First Commandment be in first place in our lives.
- **FULLY PLEASING HIM** - We want to respond to Jesus' love and His leadership by doing what pleases Him. We want to invest our time and resources in a way that He delights in. When we stand before Him, He will give us eternal rewards which is the way He expresses how He feels about the way we loved Him in this age.

***Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (1 Cor 5:9-10 NKJV)***

## **BEING FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK (COL 1:10)**

- Bearing fruit is simply the character of Christ found in the fruits of the spirit manifesting inwardly and outwardly in our lives.

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Gal 5:22 NKJV)***

## **INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (Col 1:10)**

The knowledge of God is not something we gain through intellectual study. It's when we have those "wow" moments in our mind and emotions. Have you ever had a moment where you got lost in the thought that God was never created? No matter how hard you think about it, it's impossible to comprehend. It's those kinds of moments where we begin to touch the knowledge of God.

- Immediately after Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-11, he proclaimed the glory of the knowledge of God in Christ (**Col. 1:15-20**). Christianity is actively pursuing a Person. It is more than escaping from hell, obeying a code of conduct, and fulfilling a ministry assignment.

***He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Col 1:15-20 NKJV)***

- Phil 1 declared that he gladly gave up everything as he saw glimpses of His glory.

***Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ (Phil 1:8 NKJV)***

- We are liberated from the inferior or "lesser" pleasures of sin by experiencing the superior pleasures of the beauty of Jesus. Without having a sense of awe in our relationship with God, we will live spiritually bored and be more vulnerable to

Satan's tactics. A spiritually bored believer is weak. A believer fascinated with the Lord is strong.

- The Spirit longs to be our escort into the treasure of the deep things of God's heart. Jesus is our greatest treasure, but He is "hidden" until we seek for more of Him with all our heart. The Spirit will escort us into the divine treasury of the magnificence and beauty of Jesus. Our life is to be a treasure hunt into the knowledge of God, which becomes our gold.

***Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. (Prov 2:3-5 NKJV)***

### **STRENGTHENED TO PERSEVERE WITH JOY (Col 1:11-12)**

**Strengthened with all might** - Paul prayed that the Spirit would strengthen the believers so that they would have patience or endurance in pressure. We pray that the Spirit strengthens our inner man (mind and emotions) to enable us to love and obey Jesus. It takes God's power to love God and to understand His heart.

**For all patience and longsuffering with joy** - The word translated "patience" is translated as *endurance* or *perseverance* in various Bible translations. It speaks of not quitting under pressure. Like spoken of in Romans 5.

***And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Rom 5:3-4 NKJV)***

Paul highlighted 3 areas of growth and blessing that come through pressure or trials.

1. **Perseverance** - This speaks of our resolve to continually press in or "reach" to love, obey, and pursue God and His promises. We refuse to quit or draw back from contending for fullness. Pressure causes us to ask deep questions about the purpose of our life and the condition of our relationship with God. It causes us to rehearse the consequences persevering in God compared to giving up or quitting. Pressure causes us to work our "faith muscle."
2. **Character** - Those who persevere without quitting under pressure will grow in Godly character.

3. **Hope** - Hope is confidence that Jesus' leadership is good, that love is being imparted in us during the process of the trial, and that our life is successful in God's eyes as we grow in love.

### **QUALIFIED TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE (Col 1:11)**

There are many implications to inheritance of the saints. We are empowered by seeing and enjoying our inheritance in Christ. The next few verses of Col 1 highlight some of this reality.

***He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14 NKJV)***