

Colossians 1:9-12

Prayer for Spiritual Growth

What were the Colossians known for according to 1:1-8?

1:9 - “For this reason...” How does Paul respond to their well-known faith, love and hope?

Do we ever “arrive” as a Christian? Do we ever reach a point of full maturation in this life? How do we live out 1 Thessalonians 4:1?

Paul prays that they would be “filled with the knowledge of His will.” The following phrase describes how this takes place: “in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” This is not a reference to a specific and particular will for the individual, but to the great and glorious will of God taught to us through His word and the outworking of the Gospel in our lives.

1:10 – “so that” – Paul prays with a purpose in mind for the Colossians. Spiritual knowledge should lead to what?

What happens if we gain a bunch of biblical knowledge without life change? Would you ever want to drink from a stagnant pond? How does 1 Corinthians 8:1 relate to this discussion?

The intended result of increasing spiritual knowledge is walking in a manner worthy of the Lord. Walking does not mean perfection, but a movement in a consistent direction. The desire is to please the Lord in every way. Paul follows this result (walking in a manner worthy of the Lord) with four participles that describe how to walk in this way (1:10-13).

1. ***Bearing fruit*** in every good work
2. ***Increasing*** in the knowledge of God
3. ***Strengthened*** with all power
 - a. According to His glorious might
 - b. For the attaining of all steadfastness and patience
4. ***Giving thanks*** (joyously) to the Father

According to the first two descriptions (participial phrases) what is supposed to be happening to our knowledge and actions over time? Is there a way to measure improvement?

How can we intentionally increase our knowledge? What steps are you presently taking?

In the exhaustion of our busy days and demands of our families, how are we to have the energy and desire to live out these principles?

How do we practically experience God's strength flowing into our lives? How is God's Spirit involved? God's people?

Does it glorify God for us to get a full night of sleep? Why?

How is steadfastness and patience connected to living and growing in God's strength instead of our own?

- *With our **hands**, we bear more fruit.*
- *With our **minds**, we increase our knowledge.*
- *With His **power**, we accomplish both.*

How are our **hearts** involved in "walking in a manner worthy of Him"?

What does thankfulness teach us about someone's heart and character? An ungrateful and unthankful heart communicates what to God?

As Paul describes the way we can walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, what are your next steps? How might your community group help you grow in this area?

1:12 - What has the Father accomplished for us? How?