



PRAYING THROUGH

Colossians 1:9

A TREASURE FILLED SCRIPTURE

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A Heart of Wisdom

“So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.” Colossians 1:9-10 NLT

There are some verses in the Bible that one can term ‘compound verses’ because they contain so many elements. The content of Colossians 1:9-10 definitely qualify as compound verses as they’re packed with so much insight and power.

For instance, early in verse 9 we see that it’s actually possible to have complete knowledge of God’s will. We also see that it’s possible for us to navigate both natural and spiritual realms successfully through spiritual wisdom and understanding. These are some of the things that alter our prayer patterns from seeking breakthroughs to walking in consistent victory.

This series we’re drawing out some of the insights in these verses, but more importantly we encourage you to also pray them into reality in your own life.



Day 1

Pray Without Ceasing

'So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you...' Colossians 1:9

Paul gave us a great secret to living successfully – PRAYER! We can't get away from it, the success life of a Christian is in the place of prayer. The critical thing is understanding that the place of prayer isn't about transactions (what we get) but transformation (who we become). Prayer is the equivalent of oxygen to a believer, which is why so much emphasis is laid on it.

'The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.' 1 Peter 4:7

We are in peculiar times and now more than ever we need to be spiritually alert. This alertness can't happen outside of the place of prayer. As we pray we receive direction, discernment, wisdom and understanding so we're able to make the right choices.

'I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.' 1 Timothy 2:1

'Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.' Ephesians 6:18

The prayer in our anchor scripture was an unselfish one – praying for others is God's desire, when we do so we're emulating Jesus. Praying for our personal needs is important, but as we mature in the things of God, we should start taking responsibility for other areas – our family members, city, nation, etc. – in the place of prayer. God delights in the prayer of the upright because He knows those prayers are in alignment with His agenda. He also delights in our prayers for others as it reflects our position as His representatives here on earth.

Prayer: Father I ask for the grace to pray without ceasing. Help me Lord to know what to pray and how to pray so I don't pray outside of your agenda. Give me your heart for people so I can pray consistently for other people in my life and around me. Help me fulfil my mandate as your representative that my life will bring you glory.



Day 2

Complete Knowledge

'We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will...' Colossians 1:9

God wants us to know what His will is, for our lives, families, communities, nations, etc. Life isn't meant to be lived based on trials and errors, or on what other people plan for us. It's possible for us to go directly to our Heavenly Father and ask Him for His guidance on everything, because then we will be confident that what we do according to His direction will be in alignment with His will.

'Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.' Isaiah 30:21

'Who is the man who fears the Lord...? He will teach him [through His word] in the way he should choose.' Psalms 25:12

If it's possible to have complete knowledge of God's will, why are so many of us seemingly in the dark? The first thing to note is that is absolutely impossible to consistently know God's will in the absence of a prayer and Bible study life. There are many things we ask God for that he's already answered in His word, it's now our responsibility to find out what the word says, declare and act accordingly. It's also in the place of prayer that we start getting clarity and divine alignment about many areas.

Sometimes God shows us His will, but because His ways are very different, we may not like or understand what He's saying and then rationalize to ourselves what we'd rather He said. If we truly want to have complete knowledge of His will, we need to be open to whatever instructions we receive and not try and box Him into our own way of thinking.

Prayer: Father your word says it's possible for me to have complete knowledge of your will. I ask for the grace to stay connected to you in an active relationship so I will hear and respond to you when you show me what is going to happen and what you want me to do. The Bible says the Israelites knew your acts, but Moses knew your ways. Lord teach me your ways so I can walk with you, open my ears to hear you, my eyes to see you and give me a heart that trusts that your instructions will lead me along the best pathway for my life.



Day 3

Wisdom & Understanding

“We ask God to give you... spiritual wisdom and understanding.” Colossians 1:9

Wisdom and understanding are two of the most powerful things we can ask God for. Wisdom shows us what to do, understanding provides insight on how to do it. When we have both, then we're able to discern what God is doing and saying at a point in time and how we're to respond. We're able to face life with the added advantage of having supernatural insight into what's going on and what to do about it.

“From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.” 1 Chronicles 12:32

“And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding...”
Isaiah 11:2 NLT

What distinguished the sons of Issachar wasn't just their understanding of the times, but their knowledge of the best course to take. It's not enough to know what's going to happen, we also need to know how to respond accurately. This is what the combination of wisdom and understanding does for us. These two expressions of the Holy Spirit in our lives are critical to walking successfully with God and in this life.

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.” Proverbs 4:7

“Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.”
Luke 2:52

Wisdom and understanding always go hand in hand. Jesus himself grew in wisdom so this tells us that it's a journey of continuous growth, to the extent that we choose to yield to the Holy Spirit and give Him freedom in our lives. Remember we said yesterday that God's ways are very different from ours. It's spiritual wisdom and understanding that help us trust in and walk with God. Otherwise we would end up being frustrated when things don't work out the way we think they should.

Prayer: Lord, fill me with spiritual wisdom and understanding. Holy Spirit help me navigate my walk with you. Keep me focused on what really matters, help me understand what is really going on and show me what to do about it at all times.



Day 4

Honouring & Pleasing God

'Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord...' Colossians 1:10

There's a way to live which is guaranteed to honour and please God always. It's not based on a set of rules and regulations, but on a loving relationship between a father and his children. The closer we get to God, the more we understand what makes Him 'tick' and the better we can respond to Him with minimal friction.

'Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.' Romans 8:5

'Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.' Romans 12:2 NLT

There's only one way to live life God's way – by His Spirit. When we live by the leading of the Holy Spirit, it becomes easier for us to align with God's ways because God's Spirit will always lead us in the direction that pleases Him. We need the Holy Spirit because the dictates of the world around us are always in conflict with God's ways. So as the Holy Spirit works in us, He transforms us by helping us unlearn the things we may have been used to that may not align with God's ways and learn the ways of God.

'... so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you...' 1 Timothy 6:11-12

Paul gave Timothy a few pointers in living in a way that pleases God in 1 Timothy 6, the major thrust of which is that our focus shouldn't be on what we see or have here and now, but eternal life. There's nothing passive about walking with God, it involves us actively pursuing some things, running away from others and holding on tightly to what really matters.

Prayer: Holy Spirit please transform my thinking. Help me to unlearn the things don't align and learn the things that will help me live a life that pleases and honours you.

Day 5

Bearing Good Fruit

'... and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit.' Colossians 1:10

A life that pleases God is designed to produce every kind of good fruit. This is a manner of living that puts God squarely in the driving seat of our life. As He takes charge we're assured that He removes limitations, helps us impact time and eternity all the while guiding us on our way.

'They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing,' Psalms 92:14

Biological age stops being a barrier as we're assured that even in old age we're not only going to bear fruit, but we will also flourish. Our thought processes, bodies, patterns of living can remain fresh as we will have the capacity to always be relevant to God's agenda and our sphere of influence even while we thrive.

'You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you... so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting...' John 15:16 AMP

Whatever God builds will last and have impact both here and in eternity. This means that as we walk with God, we have the opportunity to bear lasting fruit – things that really matter and stand the test of time, even after we may have exited this realm.

'He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.' Psalms 1:3

Life is all about times and seasons and some of the greatest frustrations we face come from not understanding the season we're in and how to respond to it. As we live in a manner pleasing to God, we have the assurance that whatever we do will be in perfect alignment with His plan because He will be the one navigating us through the journey. This will keep us humble in the prosperous times and comforted in the challenging times, knowing that ultimately God will work all things together for good.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the promise I have that You will keep me fresh and flourishing. Thank you for helping me build a life that will resonate both here on earth and in eternity. Thank you for showing me that even in the difficult times you're navigating me and working things out for good.



Day 6

Knowing God Better

'...All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.' Colossians 1:10

Our Christian walk is meant to be one of continuous growth – we are meant to develop and not just age. Age speaks to how long we have been Christians, while development speaks to how much of God we know.

'...the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him...' Ephesians 1:17 AMP

Our knowledge of God comes by revelation from the Holy Spirit who helps us know God for ourselves intimately, not just what we hear from others. As with any relationship, intimacy can only come from time spent with the one we're trying to know. We can't know God better with a superficial prayer and study life, otherwise we run the risk of being stuck at a particular level with Him, not accessing the depths and dimensions available in God. And the Lord will not force us, He always meets us at whatever level we decide to stay.

'As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.' Psalms 42:1

'Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...' James 4:8

We have an incredible, rich inheritance in the Lord (Eph 1:18) which we can see, and handle for ourselves (1 John 1:1-2) so that we will not be easily swayed by people or circumstances. But this depth can only come from a hunger to know the Lord better. Hunger is demonstrated in our actions. A hungry person doesn't sit down waiting for food to magically arrive, that person will take steps to go to the kitchen/restaurant, etc to address that need. Likewise, as we hunger for more of God, we will devote time to seeking Him and He has promised to draw nearer to us as we draw nearer to Him.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for how far You have brought me, but I know there is much more of You I haven't experienced yet. Give me a hunger for more of You, help me dedicate time to spend with you so I can get to know You better.



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