

Sunday, August 2, 2009—Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul—A Prayer to be Filled with the Knowledge of His Will—Colossians 1:9-14—Part 5

Introduction

- Last week we began looking at the purpose and intent of Paul’s prayer that the Colossians would be filled with the knowledge of his will in verse 9.
- We saw that the following three things steam from a knowledge of what God is doing:
 - walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing
 - being fruitful in every good work
 - increasing in the knowledge of God
- This morning in verse 11 Paul is going to pick up and continue his thought from where we left off last week.

Strengthened With All Might

- In verse 11 Paul continues with his prayer that started in verse 9. Here we see more practical petitioning on behalf of the Colossians. Paul’s desire here is that the Colossians and therefore us might be “Strengthened with all might. . . “
- Strengthened—simply means to be made strong. What are we to made strong with? All might.
- Might—simply means power or strength
 - Romans 1:16—power of God unto salvation
 - II Corinthians 1:8—above strength
 - Galatians 3:5—worketh miracles among you
- We have already learned about this might during pervious messages in this series:
 - Ephesians 1:16-20—the same power that God used to raise Christ from the dead is expressed toward us-ward who believe.
 - Ephesians 1:21—by virtue of this power Christ has been magnified, glorified, and given a position of authority above every principality, power, and might.
 - Ephesians 3:16—this strengthening with might can only occur by the Holy Spirit of God that indwells us and it occurs in our inner man.

- Ephesians 3:20—“power” is the same word as might in verse 16.
- In Ephesians 1 we learn that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is demonstrated to us-ward who believe. In Ephesians 3 we learn that this strengthen with might come by the Holy Spirit to empower our inner man.
- Remember what we learned last week. The worthy walk, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God that ought to steam from the knowledge of his will can only be produced through the life of Christ being lived out through you.
- Colossians 2:6—by grace through faith
- Galatians 2:20—its not I its Christ.
- Ephesians 1:10—we are his workmanship
- Colossians 1:11—so we learn that the strengthening with all might is going to be “according to” or in line with his glorious power. This is the power that raised Christ from the dead and exalted him above every name that is named in Ephesians 1. This is the power that comes by the Spirit to strengthen and empower you inner man.

Unto all Patience and Longsuffering

- Notice that this strengthening with all might has a specific purpose and function in the verse.
- Unto all patience, and longsuffering. Paul prays for the strengthening with might so that the Colossians and therefore us might be patience and longsuffering.
- Why in the world we Paul pray this of all things? We already learned when we studied the issue of God’s will back in verse 9 that God is not manipulating circumstances as a means of communicating his will. Therefore we are going to have to learn how the live for God no matter what circumstances we face.
- That is going to require some patience and longsuffering on our part.
- Patience--steadfastness, constancy, endurance

- Longsuffering--Bearing injuries or provocation for a long time; patient; not easily provoked.
- These are the qualities that Paul prays that we might to strengthened with all might unto.
- II Corinthians 12:7-10—God’s answer to Paul’s prayer for physical healing was not yes let me take care of that for you Paul so that you no longer need to suffer. Rather it was your physical circumstances are a chance for my life and power to be made manifest in your mortal flesh.
- Romans 8:21-25—this why Paul tells us that we need to wait patiently for the redemption of our bodies.
- Romans 8:26-27—the intercession takes place in your inner man as the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us according to the will of God.
- Romans 8:35-37—none of these physical circumstances are indicative of God’s favor or disfavor. Rather God through Jesus Christ who loved us has made it possible for us to rise above the circumstances of our lives as conquerors.
- I Corinthians 10:13—everything that face has been faced by someone before us and will be faced by someone after us.
- Romans 5:1:4—this is why Paul could glory in tribulation, because he knew it was for a greater purpose. That there was a process of edification and sanctification at work within him.
- II Corinthians 4:17-18—believers are quite often to focused on the temporal and not the eternal. Much of the teaching and thinking about the will of God is focused and rooted on making sure things work out the way we want them to in the temporal rather than focusing and rejoicing in the eternal spiritual blessings that we have already been given in Jesus Christ.

Paul’s Example

- Philippians 4:11—Paul had to learn how to be content regardless of the circumstances he found himself in. This was not something that came naturally for Paul.

- Philippians 4:12—Paul learned how to live with little as well as plenty. I Timothy 6:8—“And having food and raiment let us therewith be content.”
- Philippians 4:14-18—the Philippians has sent Paul a financial gift. Did God meet Paul’s physical needs in this passage? Yes. How did God do this? By his word working in the Philippians motivating them to give to the work of the ministry.
- Did Paul need to tell the Philippians about his ministry needs? No. They had seen His work in their midst they knew of Paul’s physical state and continued to give unto his necessity.
- I do believe that God has helped to meet my physical needs. But not by supernaturally writing me a check. Rather he was meeting these needs by his Word working in believers who are motivated by sound doctrine and the grace of God to give out of their liberality to the work of the ministry.
- II Corinthians 8:1-8
- Philippians 4:19—we need to distinguish between our needs and our wants.

With Joyfulness

- We can joyfully suffer long with patience because we know that our light afflictions are working for a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.
- We are at peace with God.
- Our trials and temptation are common to man.
- Our weakness, distress, infirmities, are opportunities for the power of God to made manifest in our mortal flesh as a testimony to the world around us of the power and love of God.