



Group Guide

Paul's Prayer

February 23, 2025

Main Passage: Colossians 1:9-14

Theological Theme

Knowing God's will for our lives and faithfully walking the path He has created for us is essential to our spiritual growth.

Introduction

- ❓ How would you define spiritual growth? Where else do we see growth mentioned in Scripture?
- ❓ Why is this growth something we need to pray for?

1. Nonstop Prayer (Colossians 1:9)

In Colossians 1:3-7, we learned that Paul had heard of the Colossian congregation's faith and love and about how the gospel had grown and borne fruit among them (vv. 4-6). Paul mentioned praying and thanking God for them even though he had never met them. Here in verse 9, we learn more about the way Paul prayed for them specifically.

- ❓ What do you think Paul meant when he said he was "asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will"? Why might that be important?
- ❓ What do you think Paul meant when he prayed for this body of believers to be filled with "spiritual understanding"?
- ❓ Application: Knowing that spiritual understanding comes from the Lord and we ought to seek it out, what are some things we can do to uncover "the knowledge of his will" for our lives?

2. Paul's Prayer for the Colossians (Colossians 1:10-11)

Paul listed many reasons that he prayed that the believers in Colossae would fully understand God's Will for their lives in this passage.

- ❓ What does it mean to, "[bear] fruit in every good work"?
- ❓ What do you think Paul meant by this? How can we grow in the knowledge of God?
- ❓ Application: Consider Paul's prayer for the spiritual growth of the Colossian believers. What does this text teach us about our own spiritual growth and how we might better seek it?

3. Praise and Thanks (Colossians 1:12-14)

In these verses, Paul's prayer for spiritual growth transitioned to praise and thanks. We see prayers of praise and thanks all over the pages of Scripture, and in Paul's prayer was a request for the Colossian believers to joyfully give thanks to the Lord.

- ❓ How has God "enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light" (v.12)?
- ❓ Paul wrote, "He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves" (v. 13). What difference does this make for daily life?
- ❓ Application: How has the Lord rescued you from darkness and brought you into light?

Conclusion

- ❓ What might praying without stopping look like for us in 2025? How can we better adopt this attitude toward prayer? Consider what tools we can employ and what habits we can begin building.
- ❓ When have you experienced a pruning season? How did God use it to help you grow spiritually?
- ❓ Spiritual growth is important. Why should we pray for it? In what ways can we pray for and pursue our own spiritual growth this year?