

Today we are looking back at Colossians 1 to see the prayer that Paul prayed for the church in Colossae. There is a way we should pray for those who trust in Jesus that is different than how we pray for those who don’t believe. Our prayer for those who don’t know Jesus is that they would come to trust Him; our prayer for believers is about growth, knowledge, and a walk that honors God with all of our life. Paul not only tells the Colossians *that* he is praying for them, but also *what* he is praying for them.

What are the differences in how you pray for those who believe in Jesus and those who don’t? Can you identify people you are praying for currently?

Paul prayed for “the heart of the matter,” which would be their core issues. He prayed for them to:

1. **Know the will of God.** Paul says, “...from the day we heard that you believed the Gospel.”

That belief produced hope for the future in Paul. We should do what Paul does and start with praying for others to be filled with the knowledge of His will. The *knowledge* of His will is the key point.

In Ephesians 4, Paul warns us to grow up and no longer be children who are tossed “to and fro” by waves of every wind of doctrine, human cunning, or craftiness in deceitful schemes. How are we not tossed? By gaining knowledge. That is Paul’s prayer for believers and this should be our prayer for each other as well.

When do you find yourself, or others, most tossed about by various winds of doctrine?

2. **Have a walk with God.** The word “walk” is used in the Bible as a word picture of a lifestyle.

There is a connection between knowing things, growing in what we know, and *living* what we know. God said, “Be Holy, for I am Holy.” Jesus said, “Love one another as I have loved you.” We’ve been forgiven by God, therefore, we should forgive others. What we know in our head and believe in our heart should be seen in our walk. The Holy Spirit reveals truth, helps us overcome, teaches and reminds us, and makes us holy.

How do you see knowing, growing, and walking work together?

When decisions come up, ask yourself, will this please God? Make that your filter. When you pray for your fellow believers, pray that they will have a hunger for God’s word.

3. **Be an ambassador (warrior) for God.** The Colossian Christians needed strength because they were being persecuted by the outside world, and they were being infiltrated by false teachers.

A lot of Christians are surprised when they find that out the Christian life can be a battle. We pray for each other that we will be strengthened so that we can be His ambassadors (soldiers) in a fallen world. Paul piles on three words: strength, might, and power. These all come from the Lord.

Where do you need strength right now? Where do those around you need strength right now?

Pray for strength over the long haul in the midst of the enemies we face.

4. **Render worship to God.** “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins”. Colossians 1:13-14

Because we have been delivered, we get to share in the inheritance.