

Rooted in Christ
2. A Prayer for Growth (Colossians 1:9-14)

Henry Craig

Prayers in Paul's letters

Paul PRAYED (2:1)

Paul was PERSISTENT (1:9)

Paul was PARTICULAR (1:9,10)

'filled 'with the knowledge of God's will...'

'... through all spiritual wisdom and understanding'

'live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way'

Four Qualities (1:10-12)

- Bear fruit in every good work
- Grow in the knowledge of God
- Be strengthened with all power having great endurance and patience
- Give joyful thanks to the Father

'giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins' (1:12-14).

Colossians 1:9-14 (NIV)

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



COLOSSIANS

ROOTED IN CHRIST

A Prayer for Growth Col.1:9-14

We have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding... that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way. (Col.1:9,10)

Paul's Prayers - Point by Point

I pray that you may...

I pray that...

Knowledge, enlightenment, discernment, wisdom -

- be given the Spirit of wisdom and revelation [Eph.1:17]
- know him better [Eph.1:17]
- the eyes of your heart may be enlightened [Eph.1:18]
- know the hope to which he has called you [Eph.1:18]
- know this love that surpasses knowledge [Eph.3:19]
- be able to discern what is best [Phil.1:10]
- be filled with the knowledge of his will [Col.1:9]
- grow in the knowledge of God [Col.1:10]

Lifestyle -

- live a life worthy of the Lord [Col.1:10]
- please him in every way [Col.1:10]
- bear fruit in every good work [Col.1:10]

Strength, power, endurance, patience -

- he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being [Eph.3:16]
- be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might [Col.1:11]
- have great endurance and patience [Col.1:11]

Love -

- be rooted and established in love [Eph.3:17]
- have power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ [Eph.3:18]
- your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight [Phil.1:9]

Character -

- Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith [Eph.3:17]
- be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God [Eph.3:19]
- be pure and blameless [Phil.1:10]
- be filled with the fruit of righteousness [Phil.1:11]

Finally -

- give joyful thanks to the Father [Col.1:12]

Paul's Prayer for Colossians – point by point

I pray that you may...

Knowledge, enlightenment, discernment, wisdom -

- be filled with the knowledge of his will [Col.1:9]
- grow in the knowledge of God [Col.1:10]

Lifestyle -

- live a life worthy of the Lord [Col.1:10]
- please him in every way [Col.1:10]
- bear fruit in every good work [Col.1:10]

Strength, power, endurance, patience -

- be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might [Col.1:11]
- have great endurance and patience [Col.1:11]

Finally -

- give joyful thanks to the Father [Col.1:12]

Paul prayed
(2:1)

*I want you to know how much I am struggling for
you... (2:1)*

THE WRITINGS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

AN INTERPRETATION
Revised Edition



LUKE TIMOTHY JOHNSON

“They saw perfection as the achievement of new levels of spiritual status, marked by observance of law, sexual asceticism, and, above all, initiation into the higher mysteries of visionary experiences... Christ was for them only a beginning; to be fully mature before God meant taking on more elaborate and visible forms of religious observance.”

Luke Timothy Johnson

Paul prayed
(2:1)

*Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of
wisdom and knowledge (2:3)*

Christ is all, and is in all (3:11)

Paul was
persistent
(1:9)

We have not stopped praying for you... (1:9)

Paul was particular (1:9,10)

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express (Rom.8:27)

*God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will** through all spiritual wisdom and understanding (1:9)*

*filled 'with the
knowledge of
God's will'*

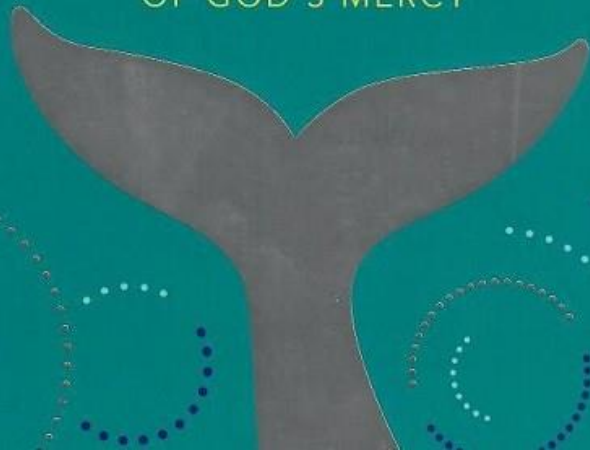
*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God
(Ps.143:10)*

AUTHOR OF THE BESTSELLING *THE REASON FOR GOD*

TIMOTHY KELLER

THE
PRODIGAL
PROPHET

JONAH AND THE MYSTERY
OF GOD'S MERCY



Timothy Keller

“Jonah doubted the goodness, wisdom, and justice of God. We have all had that experience. We sit in the doctor’s office stunned by the biopsy report. We despair of ever finding decent employment after the last lead has dried up. We wonder why the seemingly perfect romantic relationship – the one we always wanted and never thought was possible – has crashed and burned. If there is a God, we think, he doesn’t know what he is doing! ...When this happens we have to decide – does God know what’s best, or do we? And the default mode of the unaided human heart is to always decide that we do.”

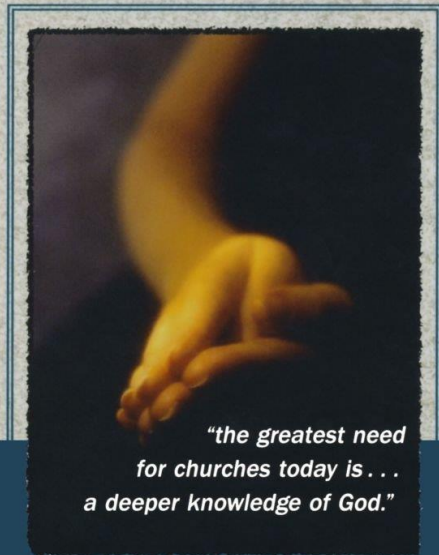
*filled 'with the
knowledge of
God's will'*

Through all spiritual wisdom and knowledge (1:9)

*How can a young person stay on the path of
purity? By living according to your word.*

(Ps.119:9)

A CALL TO SPIRITUAL REFORMATION



PRIORITIES FROM PAUL
AND HIS PRAYERS

D. A. C A R S O N

'In thought, word, and deed, in action and in reaction, I must be asking myself, "What would Jesus have me do? What is speech or conduct worthy of him? What sort of speech or conduct in this context should I avoid, simply because it would shame him? What would please him the most?"'

D.A. Carson

*'live a life
worthy of the
Lord and
please him in
every way'*

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles... let us fix our eyes on Jesus (Heb.12:1,2)

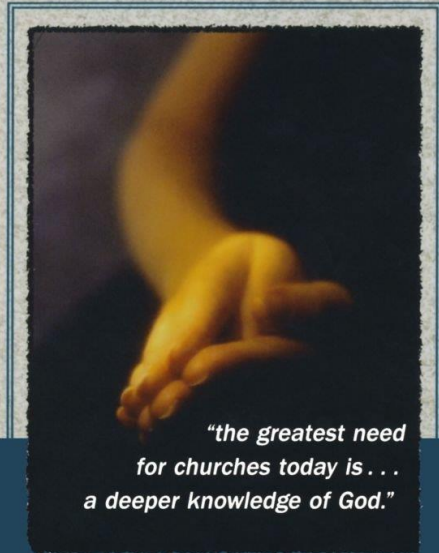
Four Qualities (1:10-12)

- bear fruit in every good work (1:10)
- grow in the knowledge of God (1:10)
- are strengthened with all power... having great endurance and patience (1:11)
- give joyful thanks to the Father (1:12)

A Prayer for Growth Col.1:9-14

... giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (1:12-14)

A CALL TO SPIRITUAL REFORMATION



PRIORITIES FROM PAUL
AND HIS PRAYERS

D. A. C A R S O N

"...ask God for good health, recovery from illness, safety on the road, a good job, success in exams, the emotional needs of our children and much more of the same."

D.A. Carson



Paul's Prayer for Colossians

I pray that you may...

Knowledge -

- **be filled with the knowledge of his will [Col.1:9]**
- **grow in the knowledge of God [Col.1:10]**

Lifestyle -

- **live a life worthy of the Lord [Col.1:10]**
- **please him in every way [Col.1:10]**
- **bear fruit in every good work [Col.1:10]**

Strength, endurance, patience -

- **be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might [Col.1:11]**
- **have great endurance and patience [Col.1:11]**

Joy -

- **give joyful thanks to the Father [Col.1:12]**

A Prayer for Growth Col.1:9-14

We have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding... that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way. (Col.1:9,10)