

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Study Series: Life-Changing Prayers
Part 3: Colossians 1:9–14, Philippians 1:3-6, 1:9-11

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023
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Introduction

Welcome to Part 3 of the Life-Changing Prayers Bible Study Series. In the first two parts, we have covered the two major Pauline prayers from Ephesians. First, Ephesians 1:17-21 which focuses on the revelation knowledge of God and of everything available to us in Christ. Second, Ephesians 3:14-21 which focuses on strengthening our inner man and knowing and experiencing the love of God. Let's summarize and personalize these prayers.

***Ephesians 1:17-21:** "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to **me** the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of **my** understanding being enlightened; that **I** may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."*

***Ephesians 3:16-21** "... that He would grant **me**, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in **my** inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in **my** hearts through faith; that **I**, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that **I** may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in **I**, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

Has anyone memorized these prayers?

Pauline Prayers from Colossians:

Today, we are going to look at another one (or more if we have time) of Pauline prayers, starting from the one found in the Epistle to the Colossian Church. Remember, we have said what happened as a believer prays and confesses these prayers. Let's refresh our memory of the two things that happen.

- 1) The revelation of the truth in them will begin to drop into your heart.
- 2) As a result of that revelation, your life begins to reflect the powerful intent of those prayers.

***Colossians 1:9–14** "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."*

"Filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding"

- This prayer goes to the heart of the fundamental key to success in our Christian walk and in everything we do in life - knowing God's will.
- We also know that His will comes in the form of spiritual wisdom and understanding.
- What is wisdom? What is spiritual understanding?

"That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him"

- What does it mean to walk worthy of the Lord and fully pleasing Him?
- Fully pleasing God is a life-long process for the believer, involving an ever-deepening knowledge of who Christ is, what pleases Him, and the magnitude of His holiness.

“Being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

- Living a fruitful life is Jesus’ goal for every believer.
- *John 15:2 “He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”*
- Fruitfulness leads to increase in our knowledge of God.

“Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy”

- This is another prayer for inner strength, similar to the prayer in *Ephesians 3:16-21* “... that He would grant me, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in my inner man”
- Having inner (spiritual) strength is important to Apostle Paul. Here, he is referring to the kind of strength that produces patience and longsuffering.

The prayer ends with thanksgiving embedded with deep truths about our salvation:

Colossians 1:12–14 “12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

- He qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.
- He has delivered us from the power of darkness.
- He conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.
- In His we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Pauline Prayers from Philippians:

Philippians 1:3-6 “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

- This is a very powerful prayer of affirmation and declaration of confidence in God that comes in handy in many situations, either for yourself or others.

Philippians 1:9-11 “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

“That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment”

- This is similar to the prayer in *Ephesians 3:17-18*

“That you may approve the things that are excellent”

- Prayer to discern what is best. (Also see *Romans 12:2*)

“That you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ”

“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”