

## “A Pastoral Prayer for the Road Ahead”

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### Scripture

#### Colossians 1:9-12

“For this reason, also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in all **spiritual wisdom and understanding**

so that you will **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, bearing **fruit in every good work** and **increasing in the knowledge of God**

**strengthened with all power**, according to His glorious might, for the **attaining of all steadfastness and patience**

**joyously giving thanks to the Father**, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”

#### Not Ceased to Pray

“For this reason” -> vs. 7-8

“Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.”

Paul learned that many came to Christ in Colossae and got a great report from Epaphras

Paul continually prayed for this young church

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-17** -> “rejoice always, pray without ceasing”

What is Paul praying for them to be?

#### Filled with the Knowledge of His Will

*Pléroó* -> “to be Full or Complete”

*Epignósis* -> “Experiential Knowledge” -> “knowledge gained through first-hand relationship”

*Theléma* -> “God’s preferred will”

Do you know what God’s will is for your life?

How do you find out what His will is for you?

Only by Spirit-filled prayer and praying in the Spirit

### The Lord's Prayer

- Our Father, who art in Heaven
- Hallowed be Thy Name
- Thy Kingdom Come
- Thy Will be Done
- On Earth, as it is in Heaven

### Romans 8:26-27

“We do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and **He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is**, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

### 1 Corinthians 2:11

“The thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God”

**We need bi-directional prayer** which means we need to spend time listening to God

Too often, we're praying in burst mode, only unloading our prayer requests on God

**God's Will is found when Opportunity meets a Willing, Sacrificial Heart**

**So, I pray that you will know and experience God's Will in your lives**

### In All Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding

*Sophia* -> “general skill in living”

*Sunesis* -> “applied wisdom to understanding in specific situations”

**What situations or events in your life occur where you ask for assistance before making a decision?**

**Are there some decisions where you need input?**

**So, I pray that you will make wise choices in life and specifically allow God to pour guidance into you in specific, critical situations**

### Walk in a Manner Worthy

*Peripateó* -> “A comprehensive, daily walk – How I conduct my life”

*Axiós* -> “recognized as fitting (having worth that "matches" actual value)

Do you live according to what the Bible teaches for believers?

Is your daily life, in thought and deed, honorable to the Lord?

Mum: Live as if I'm watching you at all times. A bit scary for a 12-year old boy, but memorable.

### Matthew 5:16

"Let your light so shine that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven"

**So, I pray that you will live in a manner worthy of the Lord, who has called you to be salt and light in the world.**

### To Please Him in All Respects

*Areskia* -> "a pleasing, willing service"

All Respects -> "An emphasis of the total picture then is on "one piece at a time"

### WWJD?

Every decision, every action, every thought for His glory...

### 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever you do, do all to the glory of God**. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved."

### Is drinking alcohol against biblical teaching?

What would you do if you were invited to the house of a former alcoholic?

Placing Him in view for the decisions in life is a skill to be learned and applied.

**So, I pray that you will please Him by keeping Him in view as you live, asking yourself, “What would Jesus want me to do in this moment?”**

### **Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work**

Karpophoreó -> “To bring forth fruit” as in harvest

Every Good Work -> “All that you are doing”

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

“The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

### **Colossians 3:17**

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”

**So, I pray that you will be fruitful and experience the love, joy, and peace of the Spirit which brings patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness into your lives.**

### **Increasing in the Knowledge of God**

*Auxanó* -> “To grow into greater maturity”

*Epignósis* -> “Experiential Knowledge” -> “knowledge gained through first-hand relationship”

### **1 Peter 2:1-3**

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, **long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation**, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”

Walk with a Spiritual Mentor.

This is the individual you go to for guidance and assistance in times of concern where you need a biblical example.

**Who is your spiritual mentor?**

**So, I pray that you will seek out a spiritual mentor, build a relationship with a believer who is strong and experienced in walking with Jesus.**

## Strengthened with All Power according to His Glorious Might

*Dunamoó* -> "To grow stronger"

*Dunamis* -> "Miraculous power"

Like a Dynamite explosion into a Dynamo!

*Kratos* -> "dominion, exerted power"

Power to achieve by applying the Lord's inherent abilities. -> Power through God's ability

### **Joshua 1:9**

**"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous!** Do not be terrified nor dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

### **2 Timothy 1:7**

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; **but of power**, and of love, and of a sound mind"

What can do you with God's power on your side?

**So, I pray that you will understand the power of God available for your daily life and that He's not just a Sunday thought, but an every-day thought.**

## Attaining of All Steadfastness and Patience

*Hupomoné* -> "a patient enduring of events"

God enables the believer to "remain (endure) under" the challenges He allots in life

*Makrothumia* -> "a patient enduring of people"

Longsuffering or "waiting a long time before expressing anger"

This is how God describes Himself

### **Exodus 34:6**

"Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, **slow to anger**, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth'"

### **Numbers 14:18**

"The Lord is **slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness**, forgiving iniquity and transgression"

### **2 Peter 3:9**

"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but **is patient toward you**, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance"

Let's face it...some people are not believers, and they will test your patience

Others are believers...and they will test your patience...

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

“**Love is patient**, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures all things**”

**So, I pray that you will show patience in your life with those events that come upon you when you least expect them and with the people you interact with who can be incredibly frustrating to you**

### Joyously Giving Thanks to the Father

*Chara* – “to be joyful in all circumstances”

*Eucharisteó* – “Thankful for God’s good grace”

Being patient with others and being joyful at the same time.

Can you be joyful when you’re enduring a trial or a conversation with a difficult person?

You can if you are so focused on how gracious God has been to you in your life

**So, I pray that you will ever be reminded of how much God has been gracious to you and inspire you to be gracious to others in the same way.**

### Communion

### Prayer