

The Work of the Father

Colossians 1:9-14

Introduction: Paul prays for growth in the knowledge of God's will (9); what they should look like (10-13); to remember the source of their salvation (13-14).

First, Paul prays that they be filled with knowledge of his will - 1:9

Discerning God's Will - Spiritual Discernment

Principle #1 - Obey the Moral Law - (Exodus 20: 1-17; Matthew 5:17-48)

Principle #2 - Pursue Wisdom - Knowledge - Understanding - Wisdom - Discernment.

Principle #3 - Timing - The 'Timing Principle' = faith and patience.

Principle #4 - Spiritually Opportunistic - Open doors

Principle #5 - Walk by Faith - Abraham helps us

Principle #6 - Humble Planning - James 4:13-16

Principle #7 - Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit - O. T. - physical/outside; N. T. - spiritual/inside,

Principle #8 - Preferences

Principle #9 - Process - Resist a predetermined goal

Second, Paul prays what they should look like - 1:10-13

"Bearing Fruit" - John 15:2, 5-6; Romans 7:4

"Growing in a knowledge of God"

"Strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might" - 1:11

"Giving thanks to the Father,"

Third, Paul prays that they remember the source of their redemption (13-14).

Conclusion: So, when do we pray? Paul gives his answer - when he "heard"

So how did Paul pray for these believers? (10-14) He prayed for three things specifically: First, knowledge of God's will. Second, that they walk worthy of the Lord. Third, that they remember the source of their redemption.

What was Paul most thankful for as he prayed? (12-14) Who he was before Christ and what he gained in Christ! (Romans 11:33-36; 1 Timothy 1:12-17)