

Colossians 1:9-11 — “Praying for One Another: Some God-Given Lessons”

One of the greatest privileges God gives to his people is to PRAY TO HIM FOR FELLOW BELIEVERS.

Proverbs 15:8 — “the prayer of the upright is His delight!”

We learn from the New Testament that the powerful church is the praying church!

The unstoppable church is the intercessory church -- praying FOR and WITH one another!

Background to Colossians 1

Big Picture and Outline of Paul’s Prayer in Colossians 1:9-12

1. Commit to prayer (9)
2. Know God’s Will (9b)
3. Walk in Obedience (10-12)

THESIS — From this text, we’ll draw out 6 Reminders on praying for the church.

I. PRAY WITH CONSTANCY FOR THE SAINTS! (9a)

“Prayer is the *greater work*” (Oswald Chambers)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: “A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses.”

II. PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING! (9b)

See Job 28:12-28 -- the fear of the LORD (right thinking/understanding/living before God!)

III. PRAY TO WALK WORTHILY & PLEASE GOD ALWAYS! (10a)

Now at this point, Paul will spell out **HOW** to walk worthily (v.10). How? 4 “-ing” verbals

1. By bearing fruit ... (fruit in your life)
2. By increasing in knowledge of God (knowledge of your God)
3. By being strengthened (Strengthened by your God)
4. By giving thanks (v.12) (giving thanks to your God)

IV. PRAY FOR GREATER FRUITFULNESS IN MINISTRY! (10b)

V. PRAY FOR GREATER GROWTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! (10c)

VI. PRAY FOR DIVINE STRENGTHENING FOR PATIENCE & PERSEVERANCE! (11)

VII. PRAY FOR JOYFUL THANKSGIVING FOR GOD’S GREAT SALVATION! (12)

"Every step in the progress of our missionary enterprises is directly traceable to prayer."
(Dr. Arthur T. Pierson)

Review of these lessons on how to pray for the church:

Pray...

1. Pray with constancy for the saints (9a)
2. Pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding (9b)
3. Pray to walk worthily and please God always (10a)
4. Pray for greater fruitfulness in ministry (10b)
5. Pray for greater growth in the knowledge of God (10c)
6. Pray for divine strengthening for patience & perseverance (11)
7. Pray for joyful thanksgiving for God’s great salvation (12)

Praying for one another (lessons from Colossians 1:9-12)

1. Pray with constancy for the saints (9a)

- Lord help me to be like Epaphras who ‘always labored earnestly for the saints in his prayers’ (Col 4.12)
- O God, help me to devote myself to prayer (Col 4.2) and to pray at all times in the Spirit for all the saints (Eph 6.18)

2. Pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding (9b)

- Lord, grant spiritual wisdom to us as the people of God -- that we would fear God & walk in His ways (Deut 10.12)
- Grant us our heart’s cry, O Lord, and “give us understanding according to your Word” (Ps 119:169)

3. Pray to walk worthily and please God always (10a)

- Help CFBC to walk worthily of the sovereign call that you’ve mercifully called us to (Eph 4:1; Phil 1:27)
- Grant that every saint would walk in humility, and patience, tolerating & forgiving one another (Eph 4:1-3)
- We long to live obediently and stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving for the faith of the gospel (Phil 1.27)

4. Pray for greater fruitfulness in ministry (10b)

- Grant that we may be “very fruitful” (Ps 105:24) so that we may glorify God for your mercy (Rom 15.9)
- Help that every believer would abide in Christ and bear “much fruit” and prove to be your disciples (John 15.8)
- May we all take heed to the ministry you’ve given us (Col 4:17) and fulfill it (2 Tim 4.5) with joy (Col 1:11b)

5. Pray for greater growth in the knowledge of God (10c)

- May it be that we would never boast of our achievements, wisdom, successes, but in knowing you (Jer 9:23-24)!
- Grant that we corporately would press on to deeply know—genuinely, really press on to know—our God (Hos 6.3)

6. Pray for divine strengthening for patience & perseverance (11)

- Strengthen and prepare us for trials that we would endure with *your* strength (2 Cor 12:9-10)
- Equip us and fortify us in the Truth so that we can exult *in* our tribulations in godly hope (Rom 5:1-5)
- Give us great patience toward one another (Col 3:12) and endure suffering with patience (1 Pet 2:20)

7. Pray for joyful thanksgiving for God's great salvation (12)

- Grant deep, unbounded joy that is rooted in the great gospel of sovereign love whereby you saved us (Eph 2.1-10)
- Thank you, O God, that you have reconciled us and present us holy, blameless and without accusation (Col 1.22)
- Dear Father, give us the joy of the Lord that leads us to singing (Ps 32:11; 33:1) for the power of Christ (Lk 10:17)

PRAYER FOR YOUR LOCAL CHURCH.

Geoffrey R. Kirkland

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1. PRAY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!

Pray for the magnificence of God to radiate through your local church as a diamond dazzlingly sparkles in the direct rays of the sun! Reveal Him! O beg that God would captivate every mind and that His glory, His character, His worth, His Personhood, His delights would ravish every heart!

2. PRAY FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL!

Pray that the Word of God would ‘run’ through the local body. Pray for the gospel to have legs and run far and wide to save and sanctify for God’s glory! Pray for the gospel, as the power of God, to penetrate dead sinners, purify saved sinners, and delight the hearts of maturing saints!

3. PRAY FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE SHEPHERDS!

Pray for each of your pastor/shepherds by name that they would live holy lives walking purely in their hearts, minds, conduct, and conversations. Pray for your shepherds to devote themselves & prioritize their schedules to be men of fervent prayer & men who zealously study the Word of God!

4. PRAY FOR THE PURITY OF THE FAMILIES!

Earnestly beseech God and intercede for each family to diligently engage in regular family worship. Pray for dads to lead at home consistently! Pray for husbands to love their wives supremely and demonstrate the gospel accurately. Pray for fathers to discipline and disciple each child earnestly!

5. PRAY FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE CHILDREN!

Entreat God to mercifully save all of the young people in the Body. Let there be no apostates in the flock! Pray for God to save & use the young ones!

6. PRAY FOR THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT! (REVIVAL!)

Beg God to rend the heavens, descend, and pour out His Spirit of grace upon the assembly! Pray for revival to occur and then to spread in the region! Pray that God would awaken slothful hearts and that God would ignite cold hearts with a fire to love Christ, preach Christ, and call sinners to Christ!

7. PRAY FOR THE POWER OF THE PULPIT!

Ask God to speak mightily and powerfully through the preacher of the gospel. Pray for your teachers as they prepare & preach to do so with unction! Pray that God’s people would prepare to hear the Word preached and that they would re-preach it during the week. May God work through the Word!

8. PRAY FOR THE LOVE OF THE BRETHREN!

O that God’s people would sacrificially love one another just as Christ did! Pray for every person to show sincere, fervent, sacrificial love to each other.

9. PRAY FOR THE MATURATION OF THE CHRISTIANS!

Pray that Christians would devote themselves not to religion but to Christ. Pray for every believer to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ!

10. PRAY FOR THE SENDING OF GLOBAL MISSIONARIES!

Urge God to move mightily in your local flock to give people a burden for the lost—locally & globally! Pray for God to call people from within your flock who serve faithfully, who live uprightly, and who long for the lost to be equipped and sent to the lost and pagans of the world for their salvation!

11. PRAY FOR THE CHURCH TO BE A COUNSELING MINISTRY!

Present your supplications to the Lord so that your local assembly would be a haven for the hurting. Pray that all believers would be competent to counsel one another & that Jesus Christ would be constantly presented as the precious ointment to provide healing to the troubles of life. Pray for this!

Colossians 1:9-11 — “Praying for One Another: Some God-Given Lessons”**Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder**

Let us love and sing and wonder
 Let us praise the Saviors name
 He has hushed the laws loud thunder
 He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
 He has washed us with His blood
 He has washed us with His blood
 He has washed us with His blood
 He has brought us nigh to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation
 Threatens hard to bear us down
 For the Lord, our strong salvation,
 Holds in view the conqueror's crown
 He, Who washed us with His blood,
 He, Who washed us with His blood,
 He, Who washed us with His blood,
 Soon will bring us home to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us
 Pitied us when enemies
 Called us by His grace and taught us
 Gave us ears and gave us eyes
 He has washed us with His blood
 He has washed us with His blood
 He has washed us with His blood
 He presents our souls to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
 Of the saints enthroned on high
 Here they trusted Him before us
 Now their praises fill the sky
 Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
 Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
 Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
 Thou art worthy Lamb of God

Praise to Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53)

You were left, despised, forsaken
 Man of sorrows, grief unspoken
 To the cross our sins you carried
 Struck by God so it was finished there
 Pierced alone for our transgressions
 Crushed for our iniquities
 We like sheep have gone astray
 For our debt the price You paid

Holy God was pleased to crush You
 As the guiltless sacrifice
 Raised in power You give salvation
 God's good pleasure prospers in Your hand
 Final Lord of all creation
 Heav'n and earth will sing your praises
 Lion of Judah, Lamb of slaughter
 Of Your worthy name we'll always sing

*Praise to Jesus Christ in Heaven
 You in love for us were given
 God's great mercy coming through You
 Lamb of God who takes away our sin*

*Praise to Jesus Christ in Heaven
 You in love for us were given
 God's great mercy coming through You
 Lamb of God who takes away our sin*

Now why this fear and unbelief?
 Has not the Father put to grief
 His spotless Son for us?
 And will the righteous Judge of men
 Condemn me for that debt of sin
 Now canceled at the cross?

*Jesus, all my trust is in Your blood
 Jesus, You've rescued us through Your great love*

Complete atonement You have made
 And by Your death have fully paid

Now Why This Fear?

The debt Your people owed
 No wrath remains for us to face
 We're sheltered by Your saving grace
 And sprinkled with Your blood

Be still my soul and know this peace
 The merits of your great high priest
 Have bought your liberty
 Rely then on His precious blood
 Don't fear your banishment from God
 Since Jesus sets you free