

Sermon Discussion Guide

Praying for God's Will

Colossians 1:9-14

The prayer for God's will (9-10a)

Matt 6:10; Rom 12:1-3; 2Cor 5:9; Jas 1:5-8; 1 Cor 2:11-16

- What does it mean to pray to be filled with a knowledge of God's will?
- In what ways is this both a simple and complicated request?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us know God's will? What should we be asking him to do?
- How would praying to be filled with a knowledge of God's will change your prayers?

The picture of God's will (10b-12a)

2 Thess 2:17; 1 Tim 5:10; 2 Tim 2:21; 3:17; Tit 1:6; 3:1; Eph 2:10; Gal 5:22; Col 1:5-6; Jas 5:10-11; Rom 2:4, 5:3; 15:4; 9:22; 2 Tim 3:10; Heb 6:12, 10:36; 1 Pet 3:20; Phil 1:3; Col 1:3, 3:17; Eph 5:20

- Look at each of these categories and explain in your own words what they mean, and what it would look like to pray with these divinely inspired "talking points."
 - Bearing fruit in every good work
 - Increasing in the knowledge of God
 - Being strengthened to persevere
 - Giving thanks to the Father

The perspective of God's will (12b-14)

2 Cor 3:6; Eph 1:18; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Lev 26:12; Rev 21:3; Eph 5:8, 6:12; 1 Thess 5:4-5; 1 Pet 2:9; Mat 3:17, 17:5; Rom 9:25; Eph 1:6-7; Jer 31:31-41

- What do the words *qualified*, *delivered*, *transferred* tell us about our position before God?
- How could it change our prayers if we were more aware of our position before God?
- Additional Question: What overlap is there between the Lord's prayer (Matt 6:9-13) and this prayer from Colossians 1?