

Crossroads Fellowship

“Directed Prayer from Colossians”

Colossians 1:1-23

Introduction

Col 4:12 “Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”

Directed Prayer In Pairs

I'll be guiding us through a series of brief devotionals followed by a response time of prayer in pairs.

1. Ground rules:
 - a. Pray with your spouse or someone of the same sex
 - b. Don't spend your time talking -- get right to prayer.
 - c. Keep your prayers brief. Instead of praying one long prayer, share shorter prayers back and forth-- don't be a prayer hog!
2. Begin by praying that:
 - a. God will bless your time of prayer.
 - b. God will use this time in a very powerful way to draw you closer to Him.
 - c. God will lead you by His Holy Spirit
3. Pray with your partner

I The Filling Of God

A. Paul asked God to **fill** the believers in Colosse [Col 1:9b]

Fill = Pleroo = “To level up (a hollow), to fill full to running over”

“To fill up a deficiency.” Every believer has deficiencies in his or her knowledge of the Word and these deficiencies need to be filled through a careful study and an accurate handling of the Word (2 Tim. 2:15).

1. With the knowledge of His will:

Knowledge = Epignosis = “A thorough knowledge or comprehension”

Eph 1:17 “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”

Application:

God designed our minds to be filled with the knowledge of His will, but if they are empty of that knowledge, they can become quickly filled with all kinds of junk.

Little time with God: Little transformation
 Big time with God: Big transformation

Prayer #1:

1. Ask God to fill up the void in your partner's life with the knowledge of God's will.
2. Ask God to give him/her a hunger for a growing relationship with Him through the Word, prayer and worship.

II The Endurance To Continue

A. Paul prayed that the Colossians might have great **endurance** and patience [Col 1:11b]

Endurance = Hupomone = **Hupoo** = "Under" **Meno** = "To stay, remain, abide"

It means to remain under a trial without giving in -- to endure or remain steadfast regardless of the **intensity** and **length** of the testing. It means to wait on God for answers and deliverance without taking things into your own hands.

Heb 12:1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance [hupomone] the race marked out for us."

Application: We have a choice how we face life's challenges:

Sickness, pain, marital problems, discouragement, financial loss, death of loved ones, temptation, satanic attack, and persecution.

Isa 50:10-11 "Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant?"

Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment."

Reward:

James 1:12 "Blessed is the man who perseveres [hupomone] under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

Prayer #2:

1. Share briefly with your partner where you have been tempted to quit.
2. Pray for each other not quit or light your own fire
3. Instead pray Isaiah 50:10: "Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God."

III The Throne Of Your Heart

A. Paul emphasized the **deity** of Christ [Col 1:15-20]

“He” is again the intensive autos “He alone – to the exclusion of all others”

1. He alone is the image of the invisible God
2. He alone is the firstborn over all creation
3. He alone is the creator of all things
4. He alone is the reason and goal of all creation
5. He alone is the one who holds all things together
6. He alone is the head of the church
7. He alone is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead
8. He alone is the one deserving supremacy

Application:

He alone – to the exclusion of all others has the right to sit on the throne of your heart. If He is the Lord of your life, you owe Him your allegiance, your service, your praise -- your very life!

If you happen to be sitting in His chair, He will apply increasing incentive for you to give Him His rightful place in your life! ☺

Prayer #3:

1. Share with your partner any area where in your life where Christ is not on the throne.
2. Repent, ask God to forgive you and pray for each other for a heart of absolute surrender to His Lordship -- in your priorities, decisions, activities, and resources for the glory of God.

IV The Gospel Of Jesus Christ

A. Paul was a **servant** of the Gospel - Colossians 1:23

B. Epaphras was a servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Col 1:6-7 “All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf ...”

Note: This Good News CAME to the Colossians – someone brought it to them

Rom 10:14-15 “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?”

Prayer #4:

1. Share the name of a friend or family you would like to share the Gospel with and/or invite to church.
2. Pray that these friends would respond to and receive the life-changing message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

V Closing Prayer

- A. Pray for one another's personal prayer concerns
- B. Pray for God's blessing on one another