

Colossians

Lesson 18

Col 1:10-12 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. NIV

Why did Paul pray for the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of God in all wisdom and spiritual understanding?

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

What happens in the spiritual realm when we pursue the will of God and how can we know that we are doing so?

1. Walking Worthy

a. True knowledge of God's will is inseparable from walking or **living** conformably to it.

b. It was so for **Jesus** during His earthly ministry. John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38

c. It is so for **us today**. Matt 7:21; 12:50

d. Therefore those who actively pursue the will of God are **Worthy** of the Lord - Eph 4:1-6 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:1).

2. Fruitful

a. Such who pursue the will of God shall be **fruitful** –

b. Bearing fruit is the **first** manifestation of our walking "worthy of the Lord."

c. This fruit bearing is a **natural outcome** of our spiritual growth and is pleasing to the Lord.

d. It manifests itself as change in the **inward man** (fruit of the Spirit) and is demonstrated by outward good works to others. Eph 3:16, 4:1-6; Gal 5:22-25

3. Growing

a. This fruit bearing process thus leads to increasing or **growing** in the experiential knowledge of God.

b. This "full knowledge" of God is the true **means** of spiritual growth.

c. Without experiential knowledge of God it is impossible to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth is not an **intellectual exercise**.

4. Strengthening

a. The outcome of experiential knowledge of God is that we are **'Being strengthened,'**

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- b. Strengthened **in our faith**; which is ever increasing, continuing, persevering faith, faith pressing forward, and faith which overcomes our unbelief. 1 Peter 1:3-9
- c. This living faith is strengthened as it is manifest in our sanctification (as we **live Christ**.) 2 Cor 3:18; Phil 1:20-21
- d. This strength is not a **meager**, just barely getting by strength. It is Dunamis. Col 1:11
- e. We are "empowered with all power." According to the might of His glory. It is **perfect strength** derived from another, and is accompanied by His glory.

5. Four Proofs

- a. Such strength enables us to take anything that comes our way with **patience**. That means we are remaining under the pressure of difficulties without succumbing. James 5:9-10; 2 Cor 6:3-5
- b. Such strength derived from the Holy Spirit allows us to endure long abuse and we **do not retaliate** against our abusers.
- c. Because we have such strength we can go through whatever God ordains **joyfully**. Acts 5:40-41; 16:23-25
- d. And through it all we are **thankful** to God who has made us qualified to be heirs with Christ.

6. Application

- a. To what extent do you exhibit patience, longsuffering, joy and thankfulness in trials?
- b. Why do you think you come up short?
- c. Convert your self assessment to a prayer of confession to God.

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What happens in the spiritual realm when we pursue the will of God and how can we know that we are doing so?

1. Walking Worthy

- a. True knowledge of God's will is inseparable from walking or _____ conformably to it.
- b. It was so for _____ during His earthly ministry. John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38
- c. It is so for _____. Matt 7:21; 12:50
- d. Therefore those who actively pursue the will of God are _____ of the Lord Eph 4:1-6

2. Fruitful

- a. Such who pursue the will of God shall be _____
- b. Bearing fruit is the _____ manifestation of our walking "worthy of the Lord."
- c. This fruit bearing is a _____ of our spiritual growth and is pleasing to the Lord.
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3. Growing

- a. This fruit bearing process thus leads to increasing or _____ in the experiential knowledge of God.
- b. This "full knowledge" of God is the true _____ of spiritual growth.
- c. Without experiential knowledge of God it is impossible to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth is not an _____

4. Strengthening

- a. The outcome of experiential knowledge of God is that we are _____
- b. Strengthened _____; which is ever increasing, continuing, persevering faith, faith pressing forward, and faith which overcomes our unbelief. 1 Peter 1:3-9
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