

Accept No Substitutes

# Praying for Believers

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1. What is prayer? How do we know that God answers prayers? Give supporting evidence from the Bible.

When God doesn't seem to answer our prayers, what should we conclude?

2. What can we learn from Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-14?

3. Discuss the four things for which Paul prayed:

- a. that believers would be "filled with a knowledge of His [Christ's] will";
- b. that they might "walk worthy of the LORD";
- c. that they would be "strengthened with all might"; and
- d. that they might be thankful.

4. How are we "filled" with knowing God's will (v. 9)?

How specifically can we do that?

5. How can believers "walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him" (v. 10)?

6. What does verse 11 say is the answer to being patient and putting up with difficult circumstances (longsuffering) and people?

How do we get this power? How does joy fit into this?

7. Verses 12-14 remind us to be thankful. List these items and discuss how they apply to the group.

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**Colossians 1: 9-14** <sup>9</sup>For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup>that you may walk worthy of the LORD, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup>strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father who has qualified use to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

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**Monday**

Honestly assess your prayer life. Do you have a daily prayer journal? How often do you pray?

**Tuesday**

Do you regularly see answered prayer? Name the last one you saw answered.

**Wednesday**

Do you ask God for what you think you need, or for His will to be done? Do you find that God often says “no” to your prayers?

**Thursday**

How faithfully and specifically do you pray for others?

**Friday**

When you’re having an especially difficult day or week, do others still see genuine joy in your life?

**Saturday**

“LORD, may we pray in an effective way that honors You. Help us to know Your will, to live in a God-honoring way, to endure in the heat of trials, and to always remember to thank You. We have so much to be thankful for.

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