

THURSDAY *January 8* **Prayer Power**

- Ever faced / decision so important / you found yourself pleading = **“Lord, what is Your will for me?”**
- You prayed / waited / still wondered
 - How do I really know / what God wants?
- Apostle Paul understood question well = wrote to believers in Colossae = prayed one of most powerful prayers in NT
 - prayer not just for them = but for us

Colossians 1:9–12 “We do not cease to pray for you =to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in all **wisdom and spiritual understanding**; that you **may walk worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing Him, **being fruitful in every good work** and **increasing in the knowledge of God**; **strengthened with all might**, according to His glorious power, for all **patience and longsuffering with joy**; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

- Not casual prayer = to have easier lives / fewer trials
- Prayer for depth / maturity / power = Paul prays they will
 - know God’s will / live it out = joy / strength / fruitfulness
- **First request** = believers be **“filled w/ knowledge of His will.”**
- Divine invitation = God wants us to know His will
 - But requires two attitudes = **trust** and **surrender**

John 7:17 Jesus said, “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine”

- More than intellectual curiosity = takes spiritual commitment
- The more we’re willing to obey = the more God reveals
- begins when we stop demanding our way = start trusting **His**

Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

God reveals His will = in three main ways:

First = Bible = our greatest source of wisdom

Psalms 119:105 Your word = lamp to my feet /light to my path

- Bible doesn't just give general principles = reveals God's heart
- More we read Scripture = more we recognize His voice
 - God's will = never contradicts His Word

Second = God often guides thru providence

circumstances He opens or closes

Colossians 4:3 ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ

- When /ask God to guide us = He arranges situations / connections / even delays = that move us toward His purpose
- Ever noticed how sometimes / very thing you thought was a **setback** = turned out to be a **setup** for God's plan?
- His providence / perfect = even when it feels / inconvenient

Third = Holy Spirit gives direct inner guidance

Isaiah 30:21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it.”

- When we walk closely w/ God = Spirit aligns our conscience / confirms truth / warns us when we drift
- More time we spend in His presence = more we recognize
 - His still / small voice = 1 Kings 19:12

Bible / providence / Holy Spirit = these three united create powerful compass for believer who prays / listens / obeys

- Next phrase is key: “that you may walk worthy of the Lord.”

- “Walk” = daily conduct = how we live / act / speak / respond.
- None of us is worthy by nature
 - But thru grace = called to live up to = our heavenly identity
- **Eph 4:1** “Walk worthy of the calling w/ which you were called.”
- Spirit-empowered/led journey = not self-powered performance
- **Ezekiel 36:27** God’s promise: “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes.”
- When we’re filled w/ knowledge of His will = our walk changes
 - Our choices begin = to align w/ His values
 - Our actions start = to reflect His character
 - We begin to live = in way = “fully pleasing to the Lord.”
- Paul tells us what pleases God:
- **Being fruitful in every good work.** Christian life = not passive
 - Life of service / generosity / compassion
 - Prayer doesn’t just ask for blessings—ask to be a blessing
- **Increasing in the knowledge of God.** Growth never stops
 - More we know Him = more we love Him
 - More we love Him = more we reflect Him
- **Being strengthened with all might.** Obedience requires it
 - But not our own = God fills us w/ “His glorious power”
 - so that we can endure trials “with patience / joy.”
- **Giving thanks to/ Father.** Gratitude completes = circle of faith
- Understand God’s love / everlasting gospel of salvation by grace
- Know He does everything for our eternal benefit
- Recognize our blessings / midst of every trial endured w/peace
- Brings us back to = heart of thanksgiving

POWER OF PRAYER = Transformation

- Paul’s prayer isn’t about = **getting** something from God
 - It’s about = **becoming** something for God

- Prayer isn't just / way to change our **circumstances**
 - Prayer = means by which God changes **us**
- When you pray for knowledge of His will
 - Don't just ask for clarity of understanding
 - Ask for courage to obey it = w/ heart delights in His ways
- Prayer /place where = human weakness / meets divine wisdom
 - Confusion / becomes confidence = Fear / becomes faith
 - Where God's purposes unfold in His perfect time

CONCLUDING THOUGHT:

- Greatest power you hold = power of prayer
- Because prayer connects you to the One
 - Who knows = end from / beginning
- When you can't see / whole picture = trust the One who does
- Ask God to fill you w/knowledge of His will
 - Strengthen you w/His might
 - Make your life a testimony = of His grace
- So, how do you know that God is leading you?
- When His Word confirms it / when providence opens doors / and when His Spirit gives peace even in uncertainty
 - you can trust = you're walking in His will
- And if you're still waiting for clarity, keep praying.
- Keep walking / obeying what you already know to be right
- Paul's prayer for the Colossians is God's invitation for us today
 - To be filled / fruitful / faithful / thankful