

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 28, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Paul's Prayer in Colossians 1:9-12, Part 7

Paul prayed for the saints to be filled with the knowledge of God's will so that they would be empowered to know God in a deep way, walk worthy of Him, and be fruitful in ministry.

"...[we] do not cease to pray for you...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... for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father..."

Colossians 1:9-12

Strengthened to Persevere with Joy (Colossians 1:11-12)

Paul gives us clarity and assurance for the Holy Spirit's help to strengthen us.

"...strengthened with all might... for all patience [perseverance] 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"

Colossians 1:11-12

Strengthened with all might (1:11): Paul prayed that the Spirit would strengthen the saints so that they would have patience or endurance in pressure—physical, financial, verbal (accusations), delayed promises, etc. We pray that the Spirit strengthens our inner man (mind and emotions) to enable us to love and obey Jesus. It takes God's power to love God and to understand His heart.

"...grant you... to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man..."

Ephesians 3:16

For all patience and longsuffering with joy (1:11): The word translated "patience" is translated as endurance or perseverance in various Bible translations. It speaks of not quitting under pressure. Because the generation of the return of Jesus will be perilous according to 2 Timothy 3:1, we are called to persevere, be steadfast, to not give up when things become hard.

1. Paul connected three virtues to help us understand trials—perseverance, character, and hope.
 - a. "We also glory [rejoice] in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope..."
Romans 5:3-4

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2. Perseverance: This speaks of our fortified resolve to continually press in or “reach” to love, obey, and pursue God and His promises. We refuse to quit or draw back from contending for fullness. Pressure causes us to ask deep questions about the purpose of our life and the condition of our relationship to God. It causes us to rehearse the consequences of persevering in God compared to giving up (quitting). Pressure causes us to work our “faith muscle.”
3. Character: Those who persevere without quitting under pressure will grow in godly character.
4. Hope: Hope is confidence that Jesus’ leadership is good, that love is being imparted in us during the process of the trial, and that our life is successful in God’s eyes as we grow in love.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:

“But he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come.”

Matthew 24:13-14 ASV

“I say unto you, that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

Luke 18:8 ASV

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:”

2 Timothy 3:1 NKJV

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

2 Timothy 3:12 NKJV