

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 25, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Paul's Prayer in Colossians 1:9-12, Part 4

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

Being fruitful in every good work (1:10): To grow in knowledge of God and in ability to bear fruit. Jesus chose us to bear fruit that would remain forever (John 15:16). It is a most glorious reality for weak and broken people to be empowered to do things or bear fruit that God esteems forever. Our life becomes epic as we diligently press this as a lifelong journey.

"Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit... I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me [talks to Me], and I in him [I talk to him], bears much fruit... I chose you... that your fruit should remain..."

John 15:2, 5, 16

Bears fruit: We bear fruit inwardly in our character and outwardly in our ministry and service to others—godly character (Romans 6:22; 7:4-5; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9; Hebrews 12:11; James 3:18) and ministry and service (John 4:36; Romans 1:13; 15:28; Philippians 1:22; Colossians 1:5-6).

He prunes: The Father is a vinedresser who prunes every believer who bears fruit. He takes initiative to intervene to prune so that His people are more focused and fruitful. Pruning is positive as it causes God's people to be more focused so they can be more fruitful. The pruning is for more fruit bearing. The testing and the trials are for building character in Christ. Pruning is painful but the pain, if understood and bear, will be beautiful.

We bear fruit inwardly in godly character and outwardly in our ministry and service to others. Fruitfulness is about possessing love (humility, purity, generosity, etc.) and inspiring it in others.

Jesus connected the Father's promise to give us "whatever we ask" for in prayer (15:16) to the Spirit empowering us to bear spiritual fruit that is best expressed as we love one another (15:17). Immediately after speaking about the Father answering prayer, He focused them on praying to grow in grace to love one another (15:17).

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This is similar to what He said earlier, when He connected His promise to answer their prayer (14:14) to the Spirit empowering them to love Him more (14:15-16).

“If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, keep My commandments... the Father... will give you another Helper...”

John 14:14-16