

Let Your Prayers Increase

Read: Colossians 1:9-14

Main Idea: Persistent prayer seeks God's will for wisdom, strength, and fruitfulness in the church, empowering initiatives like Forward to bear lasting kingdom impact.

Key Verses: "...we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." (1:9-10)

Key Principles:

- Persistent intercession reflects gratitude for God's work, seeking deeper insight into His redemptive plan through Christ.
- Knowledge of God's will, revealed in Christ, empowers moral living that produces fruit, growth, and endurance that counters false teachings with gospel-centered wisdom.
- Divine power strengthens believers for joyful perseverance, rooted in thanksgiving for the inheritance shared among saints in the light.
- Redemption through Christ's deliverance from darkness and forgiveness of sins provides the foundation for a worthy walk toward kingdom advancement.
- Prayer aligns the church with Christ's supremacy, fostering unity and impact in initiatives that extend His rule.
- True spiritual understanding leads to a life of praise, recognizing God's qualification of believers for eternal purposes.

Discussion:

1. How does Paul's intercession demonstrate the link between hearing good news and increasing prayer? What might this mean for our prayers supporting FORWARD?
2. In what ways might false teachings today tempt us away from Christ-centered knowledge, and how can prayer guard our involvement in church initiatives?
3. When has understanding God's direction led to purposeful action in your life. How does the emphasis on our walk encourage you to pursue fruitfulness in FORWARD?
4. Considering God's power for endurance and patience, how can we rely on His might rather than our own strength when facing challenges in kingdom work?
5. How do stories of redemption and deliverance in our church build thankfulness for the inheritance in Christ, inspiring confidence for commitments like FORWARD?
6. In light of Christ's forgiveness, why does persistent prayer now prepare us for lasting impact, and how might deepening our prayers reflect adoration and obedience?

Prayer:

- Pray for hearts to be filled with the knowledge of God's will.
- Pray for
 - Strength to endure with patience and joy, giving thanks for our inheritance in light.
 - Us to walk worthy of the Lord and advance His kingdom through faithfulness.
 - Kingdom priorities that foster deeper faith and impact through our prayers.

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- I. Pray for the revelation of Christ's will. 1:9-10**
 - 1. We need knowledge and wisdom. 1:9
 - 2. We need direction and purpose. 1:10

- II. Pray for the realization of Christ's power. 1:11-12**
 - 1. He provides the power to endure. 1:11
 - 2. He provides the perspective to endure. 1:12

- III. Pray for the redemption of Christ's work. 1:13-14**
 - 1. Jesus will deliver you. 1:13
 - 2. Jesus will forgive you. 1:14

NEXT WEEK:
Celebrating God's Greatness
Psalm 145:1-21