

PRAYER 101

KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Colossians 1:9-12
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Introduction:

“Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God’s infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer.” R.A. Torrey

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” (James 5:16b)

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”
(Colossians 1:9-12)

I. What are the “Keys” to Effective Prayer?

Key #1: Pray without Ceasing “we have not ceased to pray for you”

Key #2: Pray for Others

“You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.” (James 4:2b-3)

Key #3: Pray for the Spiritual rather than the physical

II. What is the Focus of Effective Prayer?

A. For Spiritual Knowledge Vs. 9-10

First: The Request Vs. 9

“...filled...”

“...with the knowledge of His will...”

“Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.’”

(John 4:34)

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

(John 6:38)

“...in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,”

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,” (Ephesians 1:18)

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,” (Philippians 1:9)

Second: The Results: Practical Obedience Vs.10

Our Walk *“...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord...”*

Our Work *“...bearing fruit in every good work...”*

Our Wisdom *“increasing in the knowledge of God.”*

B. For Supernatural Power

First: The Request Vs. 11 *“...strengthened with all power...”*

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,” (Ephesians 3:14-16)

Second: The Results: Moral Excellence Vs. 11b-12

“...strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”

Steadfastness

Patience

Thanksgiving

III. What are the Practical Implications?

We will be growing in our prayers

We will be increasing in our knowledge

We will be walking in His power