

KNOWLEDGE WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING

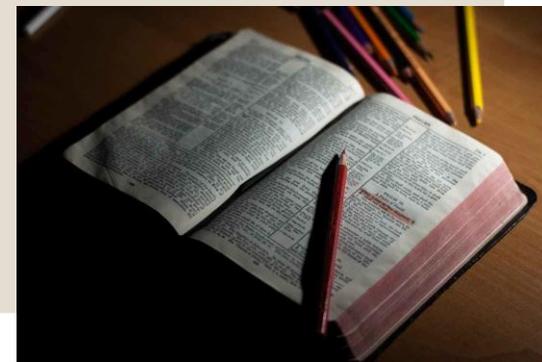
Colossians 1:9-11

Paul's Prayers for the Churches

- One of the main characteristics of Paul's letters to the churches is his **prayer** for them. (e.g. Eph. 1:16-19; Phil. 1:9-11)
- Once again in here we see him praying for the church. Through his prayer we can see what is actually **essential** to our Christian walk—things that Paul was earnestly praying for them.
- Note: He prayed **unceasingly** (1 Thes. 5:17)



- Notice Paul was praying for the believers for these 3 things—**knowledge, wisdom, & understanding**. (v.9)
- This is not the only place that these 3 are mentioned **together** (see Dan. 2:22; Isa. 11:2; Exo. 31:3), especially in the book of **Proverbs** (Prov. 2:6; 9:10; 14:6; 24:3-4).
- Knowledge—the know how, awareness, recognition
- Wisdom—ability, experience
- Understanding—insight, intelligence

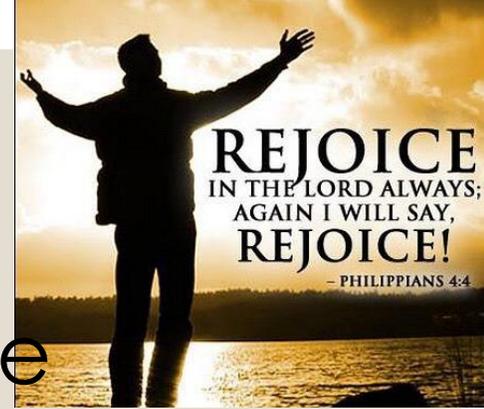


- Practically, these 3 always go together. (ill: tidying)
- Spiritually, Paul was praying that we know God's will in all these 3 areas. (**Will** here can refer to the **desire** or the **heart** of God.)
- Do you **know** God's desire according to God's word?
- Have you **experienced** God's direction in your life?
- Have you gained **insight** into how God is working in your life and in those around you?
- In other words: our **spiritual growth** can be measured by our knowledge, wisdom, & understanding of God.



Our Daily Walk with God

- Walk—as we **journey** with God these 3 will **grow**
- Worthy—Paul wants us to **glorify God** in our daily lives
- **Pleasing** to Him—not just about doing, but **being**
- Bearing **fruit** in every good work—the fruit of godliness
- **Increasing** in the knowledge of God (experience)
- Notice the same progression as in 2 Peter chapter 1 and many places. Plus we see the full circle of **knowledge** here.



The Result of Our Growth

- All power—or power upon power, as we are strengthened by God according to His might. (Acts. 1:8; Eph. 3:16)
- It is God’s might that **shines** through us as we surrender our will to His. (Eph. 1:19; 2 Cor. 4:7)
- The result—**enduring joy**, the clearest sign of spiritual maturity (Phil. 3:1; 4:4; 1 Thes. 5:16)
- Without **patience** and **endurance** our joy is not true joy in the Lord.