

# **PRAYING REGULARLY FOR OTHER CHRISTIANS (COLOSSIANS 1:9–14)**

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## **PART 1 OF 3**

### **Introduction**

What significance does Colossians 1:9–14 have on how Christians should pray?

Our Goal and Method

Six Preliminary Questions

1. Had Paul ever met the Colossians?
2. How does Colossians 1:9–14 connect to what comes before it?
3. What does praying without ceasing mean (Col 1:9)?
4. Why does Paul use two words for praying in Colossians 1:9?
5. How many sentences is Colossians 1:9–14?
6. What is the logical flow of Colossians 1:9–14?

V.	Colossians 1:9–14	Explanation
9a	For this reason also,	Reason for 9c: good report (1:4–8)
9b	from the day we heard [about you],	Time of 9c: since day one
9c	<b>we have not ceased praying for you and asking [God]</b>	<b>Main clause</b>
9d	that you might be filled with the knowledge of his will	<b>Content</b> of 9c: the prayer request
9e	with [i.e., which consists of] all spiritual wisdom and understanding	Explains 9d
10a	so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord	<b>Purpose</b> 9d–e
10b	and please him in every way:	Renames 10a
10c	bearing fruit in every good deed,	Characteristic 1 of 10a–b
10d	growing in the knowledge of God,	Characteristic 2 of 10a–b
11a	being strengthened	Characteristic 3 of 10a–b
11b	with all power	Content of 11a
11c	according to the might of his glory	Basis of 11a
11d	for the display of all patience and steadfastness,	Purpose of 11a
11e	[and] joyfully	Manner of 12a
12a	giving thanks to the Father,	Characteristic 4 of 10a–b
12b	who has qualified you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light,	Reason 1 for 12a
13a	who delivered us from the power of darkness	Reason 2 for 12a
13b	and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves,	Reason 3 for 12a
14a	in whom we have redemption,	Reason 4 for 12a
14b	the forgiveness of sins.	Renames 14a

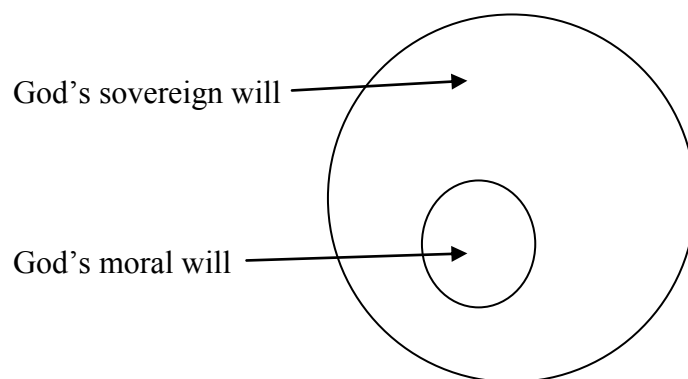
**PART 2 OF 3****1. The Request: You should pray regularly that other Christians will be filled with the knowledge of God's will (Col 1:9).**

## 1.1. What is "God's will"?

1.2.1. God's sovereign (decretive, secret/hidden) will is what He decrees.

1.2.2. God's moral (preceptive, revealed) will is what He commands.

1.2.3. God's sovereign and moral wills overlap.



1.2.4. "God's will" in Colossians 1:9 refers to God's moral will.

## 1.2. What is "spiritual wisdom and understanding"?

**2. The Purpose for the Request: You should pray regularly that other Christians will be filled with the knowledge of God's will so that they will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and please him in every way (Col 1:10–14).**

2.1. Christians bear fruit in every good work (Col 1:10c).

2.2. Christians grow in the knowledge of God (Col 1:10d).

2.3. Christians are strengthened for endurance and patience (Col 1:11).

2.3.1. The content of this strengthening is “all power.”

2.3.2. The basis of this strengthening is “the might of his glory.”

2.3.3. The purpose of this strengthening is “for the display of all patience and steadfastness.”

### **PART 3 OF 3**

2.4. Christians joyfully give thanks to the Father (Col 1:12–14).

2.4.1. Christians joyfully give thanks to the Father because He qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light (Col 1:12b).

2.4.2. Christians joyfully give thanks to the Father because He rescued us from the dominion of darkness (Col 1:13a).

2.4.3. Christians joyfully give thanks to the Father because He transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves (Col 1:13b).

2.4.4. Christians joyfully give thanks to the Father because in Jesus they have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:14).

## Conclusion

### Recommended Reading on Colossians 1:9–14

#### Introductory

1. D. A. Carson, “The Content of a Challenging Prayer: Colossians 1:9–14,” in [\*A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers\*](#) (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992), 95–110.
2. David E. Garland, [\*Colossians/Philemon\*](#) (NIV Application Commentary; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 64–80.
3. Sam Storms, [\*The Hope of Glory: 100 Daily Meditations on Colossians\*](#) (Wheaton: Crossway, 2008), 48–75.

#### Intermediate

Douglas J. Moo, [\*The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon\*](#) (Pillar New Testament Commentary; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), 92–107.

#### Advanced

1. Murray J. Harris, [\*Colossians and Philemon\*](#) (Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991), 28–40.
2. Peter T. O’Brien, [\*Colossians, Philemon\*](#) (Word Biblical Commentary 44; Dallas: Word, 1982), 18–30.