

God Time Day 1: Walk in Him

As we continue in our series through Colossians, we remember that Paul is writing to a church. Most of the members are relatively new converts, which is why Paul begins the letter by answering some foundational questions about what it means to be a Christian.



Read Colossians 1:9.

For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

Circle the word "praying."

Now, underline what Paul is praying for.

Notice that the first thing Paul does is pray. Paul is not just praying for the church; he is praying as if it is the most important thing he can do for them. As much as Paul may want to teach and disciple them in person, he understands that it is far more important for the members of the church to be tapped into the presence of God.

Why is this so important? After all, these church members have made a confession of faith, prayed a prayer, possibly filled out a decision card. Isn't that "mission accomplished?"

Paul prayed for them to be _____ with the knowledge of God's will.

The only reason for him to pray for this was if they had not yet been filled. We all need to be filled. It is not enough for us to make a decision and pray a prayer (this is *salvation*). Becoming a Christian begins the process of drawing closer and closer to God, growing and maturing in His presence and wisdom (this is *sanctification*).

What areas in your life are you struggling to allow God to be involved, let alone be in control?



Pray for God to give you humility to fully surrender to Him and allow Him to be Lord over ALL your life.

God Time Day 2: A Life That Pleases God



Read Colossians 1:9b-10.

^{9b} We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

Circle the words *knowledge, wisdom, and understanding*.

By themselves, these do very little. But when they are applied, when they are put into action ("so that you may walk..."), they change our lives.

Underline why Paul wants them to be filled. (v.10)

When we draw close to God it changes us; that is what we call "growth." This leads us to live differently. It creates in us a desire to learn more, to do more – putting faith into action – so that we can grow even closer to Him.

How has your life changed since coming to know God?

Pray for God to reveal His will and His presence today.

God Time Day 3: Transformational Power



Reread Colossians 1:9b-10 from yesterday.

Paul knows that greater knowledge of God's will changes lives. The reality is that relationships always change us. When we practice religion as just a list of rules it may feel simpler, but the impact is often temporary. When we enter into a relationship with God, we experience His presence, and we are transformed.

What is one area of your life you need to change?

Without just sticking to some rules, how can you allow God to transform you? How can you better understand His will?

God Time Day 4: Growth is Change, Change is Uncomfortable



Read Colossians 1:11-12.

¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

For the past several days, we've talked about growth and transformation. It may sound simple, but there is a reality that we need to address: most people do not like change. Change often involves discomfort, the pain of losing what is familiar and comfortable, and the fear of entering what is unfamiliar and unknown.

Circle the words "endurance" and "patience" in verse 11.

Now read what Jesus says in John 16:33.

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

Change comes whether we want it or not. When the car doesn't start, when a child moves out of the home, or when a loved one dies, your life is changed. When the trials of life come, we can allow the pain and discomfort to destroy us, or we can draw closer to God and allow Him to guide us through the pain and toward healing.

When we only pray for God to make us happy, or to shield us from discomfort, we reveal a belief that God exists to only bring prosperity into our lives. Our "faith" contradicts itself. How? Because these prayers say this: "God help me, but don't change me." It simply doesn't work that way – God is not a lucky rabbit's foot.

So many people pray for the miracle rescue, for God to take away the storms. What we need to be praying is for God to hold us close so we can experience His presence, as He leads us through the storms.

What is one storm you are experiencing? _____



Pray for God to grow you deeply in His presence through this storm.

God Time Day 5: Rescued from Darkness, Inheriting Light



Read Colossians 1:12-14.

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. ¹⁴ In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This week, we have talked a lot about transformation, growth, and change. Perhaps you might recall on Day 3 the difference between change that comes from practicing a list of rules versus change that comes from being in relationship with God. This happens because we are transformed by being in relationship with God.

Underline "rescued" and "transferred" in verse 13.

Now circle the word "redemption" in verse 14.

When God redeems us through His Son, Jesus Christ, He essentially changes us from being a "broken sinner" into a "child of God." Even when we continue to fall short, choose poorly, or sin after we have been saved, that does not change our identity in Christ. Our foundation remains a "child of God" even when we mess up.

Go back and read Colossians 1:9-14. (Read it in your Bible or piece it together from Days 1 to 5.)



What was your life like before knowing Jesus as your Savior? Write down two words to describe your life before.

How has your life been transformed by God since then? Write down two words to describe the change in your life.

Is there anyone you know who has seen the change but may not know why your life is different? Write their name.

Share with them this week about how God has transformed your life. (Watch [15-Sec. Testimony](http://cbcfamily.net/go2) at cbcfamily.net/go2.)