

## **FBC Devotion Thursday June 10 2021 Colossians 1:9-14 Qualities to Strive For**

*“We have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of His will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honour and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit.”*

When Paul prays for his brothers and sisters in Christ, he prays for spiritual blessings; godly wisdom; practical obedience; moral excellence and a Christ-like character.

He shares four qualities of life that is worthy of God and pleases him in every way. They are:

- 1) Produce every kind of good fruit
- 2) Growing in the knowledge of God,
- 3) Being strengthened with God’s power, and
- 4) Joyfully giving thanks for your salvation.

**First of all, pray that they will produce fruit.** We are to bear fruit in every good work, in all things – whether at work or at home, at school or in service at the church. God wants us to be fruitful believers.

**Secondly, pray that they will grow in the knowledge of God.**

Paul now prays for the Colossians to grow in the knowledge of God Himself. This is a key element to spiritual growth. You will only grow as a Christian as you grow to know God better through His word.

This is not the secret knowledge of false teachers, known only to a few, but rather the revealed knowledge of God available to all believers. There is no knowledge more necessary, more important, more life-changing, than the true knowledge of God revealed in His word.

**Thirdly, pray that God will give them strength and endurance.** As verse 11 puts it, *“We also pray that you will be strengthened with all His glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need.”*

Here’s the source of the Christian’s power. Not from education or personal charisma, but from God. Being strengthened refers to **“being continually strengthened.”** In other words this is not like a booster rocket, where you get an initial boost and then the rest of the way you’re on your own.

No, God continues to give you strength throughout your entire Christian life.

**And then fourthly, pray that they will joyfully give thanks for their salvation.** This is a continual outpouring of thanks to God the Father who has adopted us as children into his own family.

This should be a live long giving of thanks. Thanks that over two thousand years ago when Jesus died on the cross, all of our sins were laid on Him, and today we know not only forgiveness, but a hope that is eternal. **Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!**