

# “Effectual Prayer”

New Hope Community Church

April 22nd, 2018

Colossians 1:9-12

# Life Group Meeting

Colossians 1:9-12

## QUESTIONS

### A. *Effectual prayer involves persistence* (9a)

1. The **depth** of our resolve seems to matter to God
2. The **fierceness** of the spiritual battle must not be overlooked
  - Jesus said, pray at all times and don't lose **heart** (Lk 18:1)
  - The enemy is **relentless** (I Pt 5:7-9)
3. The **reward** of suffering is obedience (I Pt 5:10)
  - Be assured our Father has our **best** interest in mind (I Pt 5:10)
  - Understanding for this comes from looking at **Jesus** (Hb 5:7-9)
    - (1) He 'learned' obedience \_\_\_\_\_
    - (2) He was made 'perfect' \_\_\_\_\_

► **Reflection:** Is obedience to my Heavenly Father a passion of mine, such that I persist in prayer through the hard times with the ultimate goal of becoming more complete? \_\_\_\_\_

### B.. *Effectual prayer has the goal of understanding God's will* (9b)

1. Praying the will of the Father is exactly what Jesus taught us
2. We can know the will of our Father in **abundance**
  - How does this work?
    - (1) Our own will must be in **neutral**
    - (2) **Search** the Scriptures
    - (3) **Listen** to the Holy Spirit (Pr 3:5,6)
3. Notice, the wisdom and understanding God gives is **spiritual**

### C. *Effectual prayer seeks the pleasure of the Lord* (10-12)

1. Pray for deep **devotion**
2. Pray for **spirit filled** living
3. Pray for a growing **relationship**
4. Pray for increasing **victory**
5. Pray for a joyful heart that is **thankful**

1. Read Colossians 1:9-12
2. Share what your first impression is of the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Colossian believers.
3. As we think about the words "effectual prayer", a term taken from James 5:16 — "The effectual prayer of a righteous person can accomplish much" — the Greek word speaks of 'that which brings something from one point to the next', like a wire that brings an electrical current from a power source to a light bulb. What does this term teach us about effectual prayer?
4. This prayer is a model prayer for us to pray for our own spiritual growth — winning the battle over sin in our lives. The first thing we notice is persistence in Paul's prayer. Can you think of a time when persistence paid off in praying about something in your life?
5. Read I Peter 5:6-10. The enemy is clearly battling against our spiritual development as strong disciples of Jesus. According to this passage, how does effectual prayer enter into the process?
6. Has it been your experience, as Paul prayed, that you have been "filled" with the knowledge of God's will for your life with regard to spiritual growth? Share how effectual prayer has been a part of that process.
7. Suffering seems to play an important role in our spiritual growth. The Scriptures say that Jesus learned obedience through suffering. Can you share how this has been true in your life?
8. The goal of Paul's prayer for the Colossians is that their lives would be pleasing to the Lord. As you look at the specifics of this prayer under point C in the notes, discuss how these things truly will bring pleasure to God's heart.
9. End by praying parts of this prayer for one another.