

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-18 “Filled With the Knowledge of His Will”

01/04/2026

PAUL’S PRAYER

COL 1:9-12 “And so, from the day we heard [of your faith and love], we have not ceased to pray for you:

- asking THAT you may be filled with the knowledge of his will
 - in all spiritual wisdom
 - and understanding...
- ¹⁰ SO AS to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,
 - fully pleasing to him:
 - bearing fruit in every good work
 - and increasing in the knowledge of God;
 - ¹¹ being strengthened with all power,
 - according to his glorious might,
 - for all endurance and patience with joy;
 - ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

Writing from his “pastoral role” Paul desired the Believers to be able to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.” That could not be accomplished by human reasoning and counsel. ONLY with God’s help could they fulfill God’s desire. Even as Paul, Epaphras, and others have taught them, they knew something else was necessary: **PRAYER**.

THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED WITH...

This is Paul’s 1st Petition... and it is the source of the qualities that follow.

“May be...” As in the majorities of Paul’s Prayers, this is asked as a “potentiality [subjunctive mood],” not a certainty.

Paul will ask... God will respond... but the Believers must accept and act.

Just because God gives the Believer something, it does not mean that they will: Accept, Acknowledge, Follow, Use, Fulfill, or Do it. God KNOWS that.

So... The Leaders **Teach**, and the Believers **Hear**, and **Study**

Paul’s conversation and request of GOD is for the “further development” of the lives of these saints

- Whereas the prayer of PHIL 1:9-11 focused on “an outward display that is to be seen in the world”...
- THIS prayer is more about an “inner display that is manifested to the **FATHER**” ... showing their growth in true character ...

Paul is asking the Father to help them develop the very qualities that HE Desires and that HE can see...”

“Filled with...” Paul does not just want the Believers to “know” the Will of God” ... He wants them to be “Filled with that knowledge.”

- “**Plerog**” – Filled as in to be possessed by, controlled by, consumed with something – (Joy... Peace... Sorrow... Fear... The Holy Spirit)
- A “**Passive**” verb... It is GOD who will “fill them” – they cannot do it themselves. This is NOT about “Learning” but “Receiving”

“The knowledge of ...” It is good to “know by learning” God’s will: through Teaching, or the Study of God’s Word. But Paul asks for more...

- Knowledge... “**Epignosis**” – Refined knowledge... to take what is learned, and lift it higher... To reveal more than what was learned
- 2 TIM 2:7 “Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”
 - YOU think... – To meditate upon what has been learned – Learning precedes meditation: by reading, hearing, seeing
 - GOD will grant ... understanding – God will Freely give the ability to put things together so as to accomplish a purpose – the root for our word “synthesis”- to take “this” and “that” and put them together for a greater purpose

- His Will... – “**Thelema**” - God’s Eternal purposes – that which is fulfilled in accomplishing His pleasure – This is NOT guessing or assuming... It is not a “mindless attempt” to do what is right, or what seems to be a “good thing”

This is HIS eternal purpose in HIS eternal plan to HIS good pleasure...