

If Christ is our life (**Col 3:4**), then we must be a people of prayer. Paul always gave thanks to God when praying & he always seemed to pray for the saints.

### 1. What do the following passages reveal about Paul?

- a. **Rom 1:8** – Thankful to God through Christ for faith exhibited in saints
- b. **1 Cor 1:4** – Thankful to God for His grace given to saints by C. Jesus
- c. **2 Cor 1:3-4** – “Blessed”: adorable; to speak well of, to praise God the Father for His mercy & comfort in tribulation
- d. **2 Cor 13:7** – Praying to God that they would do no evil, & that they would do what is honorable
- e. **Eph 1:15-16** – Thankful to God for their faith in the Lord Jesus & their love for all the saints
- f. **Phil 1:3-5** – Thankful to God for their fellowship in the gospel
- g. **1 Thess 1:2-3** – Thankful to “God *always* ...*without ceasing* for their work of faith, labor of love, & patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God Father”
- h. **2 Thess 1:3** – Thankful to God for their growing faith & abounding love
- i. **1 Tim 1:12** – Thankful to the Lord who enabled Paul, counted him faithful, & put him into the ministry (apostleship).
- j. **2 Tim 1:3-5** – Thankful to God for the genuine faith in Timothy’s grandmother Lois & mother Eunice, which was now in Timothy
- k. **Philemon 4-5** – Thankful to God for Philemon’s love & faith toward the Lord Jesus & all the saints (**1 Cor 11:1** – Philemon was imitating Paul’s faith & his attitude toward the saints, & Paul was imitating Christ).

2. What were two things for which Paul thanked God in regard to the Colossians (1:3-4)?

The Colossians too were imitating Paul who imitated Christ – Their faith in Christ Jesus & their love for all the saints.

3. Paul made other requests on behalf of the Colossians.

- a. *“that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom & spiritual understanding” (mental putting together, i.e. intelligence) (1:9).*  
Discuss how this relates to:

1) **New Christians** (1 Pet 2:1-3) – All Christians, but especially new Christians, must be ever mindful of the gracious gift given to them in Jesus Christ (1:3). Remembering this will help them overcome sinful attitudes toward others (1:1), which will clear the way for them to develop a taste for the word (2:2).

2) **Mature Christians** (Heb 5:14) – These understand the need for solid spiritual food or instruction from God beyond the basic principles in order to prepare their minds to discern good from evil.

3) **Persecuted Christians** (2 Pet 1:5-11; 3:18) – Knowledge is a virtue that must be continually added to a Christian’s character. He is commanded to be growing in knowledge. {Discuss its value to persecuted Christians from 2 Pet 1:5-11}.

- b. *“that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him” (1:10).*

1) **Rom 6:4** – *“walk in newness of life”* – Baptism into the death of Christ & rising to walk in newness of life signifies the beginning of a new life or WALK.

2) **2 Cor 5:7** – “*A new creature*” in Christ lives for new purposes.

3) **Gal 6:15-16** – A Christian is “*a new creation*” in Christ, not through the Old Law, & as such he is granted peace & mercy from God.

4) **Eph 4:1-3** – To “*walk worthy of the calling*” is to strive to live up to the requirements of that calling.

5) **3 John 4** – Joy results when we “*walk in truth*”.

6) **1 John 1:7** – Fellowship between the Christian & God hinges on the Christian “*walking in the light*” as Christ is in the light.

c. “*being fruitful in every good work*” (1:10).

1) **John 15:5, 8** – If we’re bearing fruit then we’re pruned to bear more fruit; if we’re not bearing fruit then we’re cut off the vine.

2) **Gal 5:22** – Our fruit begins in the spiritual makeup of our heart: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

d. “*increasing in the knowledge of God*” (1:10).

1) **John 17:3; 14:7, 9; 1:18** – One of the Lord’s purposes in coming was to reveal the nature & will of the Father, a work carried on by the apostles inspired of the Holy Spirit (**Jn 16:12-15**).

- e. “strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience & longsuffering with joy” (1:11).

1) Study this verse & put it in your own words.

**TLB** – “We are praying, too, that you will be filled with His mighty, glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens – always full of the joy of the Lord.”

All spiritual strength stems from the armor of God; each piece is empowered by the word of God to defend the Christian soldier against the spiritual attack of temptation from all its many fronts, so that he may advance the cause of truth & righteousness (**Eph 6:10-18**)

4. What was Paul’s reason for giving thanks in verses 12-14 of chapter 1?

For being **qualified** (KJV: hath made meet – to enable) to partake of the inheritance with other saints in light

For being **delivered** (to draw from a current, to rush to rescue) from the power of darkness

For being **conveyed** (KJV: translated – to transfer or to carry away) into the kingdom of the Son of His love

5. What three things do we learn from Paul about prayer in 4:2?

**Col 4:2** – **Continue earnestly** (One word in the Greek text – to persevere, be constantly diligent) *in prayer, being **vigilant*** (to keep awake, to watch) *in it with **thanksgiving*** (gratitude; actively, grateful language to God).

6. What special request did Paul make in verses 3-4 of chapter 4?

Col 4:3-4 – “meanwhile praying also for us, *that God would open to us a door for the word*, to speak the mystery of Christ, **FOR WHICH I AM ALSO IN CHAINS**, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak” (cf. Phil 1:12-14)