

# Deeper Dive: Colossians 1:9-14 (Reference Tool – Bookmark & Revisit as Needed)

## Introduction

In my blog post, *The Goal of Discipleship: Spiritual Maturity* (check it out here), I hammered home the point that when you're aiming at a goal, you've got to know exactly what you're swinging for. I forged that idea using Colossians 1:9-14 as the anvil to shape our understanding of true spiritual maturity. Look, our modern Christian culture loves to spotlight behavior and conduct—like it's all about polishing the exterior. But it misses the forge-hot attitudinal shift that fuels godly living. Thanks to a mix of watered-down influences, the bar often drops to mere "niceness." "He's a believer—he's really nice." I hear you; in this ugly world, niceness is a spark. But does it stand up to the heat of spiritual maturity? Brothers, there's more fire to it. Much more.

## The Passage: Colossians 1:9-14:

**“And so, from the day we heard, 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. [13] He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”**

Part of my mission in these deep dives is to show you men how I've hammered out my understanding of key topics—raw, from the Word, no shortcuts. So, let's lay down a couple of foundational strikes before we swing:

- The text drives my conclusions, not the other way around. If you're mining the Bible just to back up some preconceived notion, you're setting yourself up for rough sledding. That's why Bible familiarity is non-negotiable in the forge. When you're steeped in Scripture and hunting for answers, you'll lean on passages you know inside out before jumping to conclusions. That's how this chunk of Colossians landed on my anvil.
- Don't hack at verses in isolation—think in paragraphs, chapters, a whole book or letter— the whole forge. The tinier the piece you isolate, the higher the risk of interpretive cracks.
- Bible study hits on endless levels, men. There's always deeper ore to mine—it's God's gift to keep us grinding. Don't see this dive as the ultimate strike on Colossians 1:9-14. I'm showing you my process, so some facets might stay unpolished here.

With the groundwork laid, let's stoke the fire and dive in.

### **The Main Point (Verse 9):**

New Testament letters (epistles, for the academics among us) often kicked off with a "Thanksgiving and Prayer" section after the greeting. The writer thanks God for the folks he's writing to, then shares how he's praying for them. Paul nails that here. In verse 9, he says, "And so, from the day we heard, 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." Paul is relentless in prayer for these Colossians. So, until he shifts gears, everything we're forging here is straight from how Paul prayed for them.

## **Prayer Request No. 1 (Verse 9)**

Paul doesn't waste time—he jumps right into what he's praying: "asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." This grabbed me hard: the call to be filled with the knowledge of His will. A newbie to Bible study might charge ahead with, "What's God's will, exactly?" Fair question, but it can derail us from Colossians. My move? "Shelving." Jot the question and verse in your notebook, circle back later to see if the passage addresses it. Keeps your mind clear for the grind ahead.

This filling is in the passive voice—God's the one pouring it in. But don't park on the bench waiting; it happens as you engage, experience Him. Yeah, I'm pounding this drum again: faithful Bible reading and prayer are your hammer and tongs for this.

This knowledge comes "in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Hold off on over-drilling here, but chew on these:

Job 28:28:

**“And he said to man,  
‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,  
and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”**

Hebrews 5:12–14:

**“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, [13] for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. [14] But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”**

In Job, God's straight-up equates wisdom with fearing Him, understanding with ditching evil. That's our heading. In Hebrews, maturity comes from constant practice in spotting good from evil. These links forge as your Bible knowledge heats up—without the sweat, they don't connect. It's effort, men, the forge at work. Facing "evil" in your own life? Brutal, but essential for maturity's edge.

So far? Paul's praying for the Colossians to be filled with God's will (shelved for now) in spiritual wisdom and understanding—knowing good from evil, fearing God.

### **Prayer Request No. 2 (Verse 10)**

That knowledge, wisdom, and understanding? They've got a purpose: "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." Here's the behavior—worthy walk, pleasing Him, fruit-bearing—forged from the mindset of knowing His will wisely.

This dynamic is the core of my discipleship forge. I want to equip men to experience and grasp God's will, absorb it, grow wise and discerning, so they stride worthy of their King. No fluff, just forged strength.

### **3rd Prayer Request (Verses 11-12)**

Paul wraps his requests (but keeps praying) in verses 11-12. Again, God's at work in us for a reason. He prays they'd be "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."

The power and might? All God's—He's forging the strength. Purpose? Endurance, patience with joy, leading to thanks.

## **Paul's Conclusion (Verses 13-14)**

Verses 13-14 might feel like a shift, but they're cracking open that "knowledge of His will" from verse 9 or "knowledge of God" in 10. It rolls on in 15-20—read it, men, to grasp who Christ is, the King we follow with grit.

### **Wrap Up**

When I strike this passage on the anvil and see what Paul's praying for the Colossians, it hits me like a hammer: "I want that forged in me—and in you, brothers. Knowledge of God's will? Spiritual wisdom and understanding hammered in? Strength for enduring with patience and joy? All fueling a walk that's worthy, pleasing Him? That's the forged life we're built for, men—no rust, no weakness."

This dive ran long, a bit dry in spots (though the truth burns hot). If deeper theology's new to you, it might sting like the first swing. But grasp this: the Forge journey demands depth, grit, and relentless pursuit. Don't falter—God's grace meets your swing.

Take this away: Wherever you stand in faith, chase Him hard, seek faithfully without quitting, and He'll reveal His will, forge wisdom and understanding in you, and temper you for endurance. It won't drop in your lap—we've got work, sweat, strikes ahead. The anvil's hot, the hammer's raised. Who's stepping up?

Pete is Out