



July 17th, 2005

LEARNING HOW TO WALK Colossians 1.9-12a

The process of maturation is amazing, especially considering our state of life at birth. We arrive in this world as totally helpless individuals. Considering the state of total helplessness and ignorance in which we entered this world, that we learn so quickly is amazing. And this process continues throughout life.

There is a similar process in the spiritual life. Just as we had to learn how to live as human beings in this world, so we must learn how to live as spiritual beings in God's world.

Core Competency: Faithfulness

I am faithful to fulfill God's will for my life.

*"Let **love** and **faithfulness** never leave you;
bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.
Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."* Proverbs 3.3-4

In our text today, Paul shared with these Christians his desire to see them achieve the goal of living a life worthy of the Lord. In fact, he was praying for them to this end. Let's look at some of the characteristics he mentioned that describe a life or walk pleasing to God.

*"And we pray this in order that you may **live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way.**"* Colossians 1.10

1. We Must Walk In Increasing Knowledge of God's Will.

*"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with **the knowledge of his will** through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way."* Colossians 1.9-10

*"But **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* 2 Peter 3.18

There are two ways to do this.

- ⇒ **The first is to learn more about Christ.**
- ⇒ **The second way we gain knowledge of Christ is by experiencing more of him.**

*"I want to know Christ and the **power of his resurrection** and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings."* Philippians 3.10

2. We Must Walk In Fruitful Service.

Christianity is about living for Jesus, not just thinking of him.

*“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: **bearing fruit in every good work.**”* Colossians 1.10a

There are two kinds of fruit for us as Christians.

⇒ The first is inner fruit, or **attitude fruit**.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5.22-23

⇒ The second kind is that which is seen, or **action fruit**.

*“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, **that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.**”* Matthew 5.14-16

3. We Must Walk In Spiritual Power.

So we must walk in increasing knowledge, and also walk in fruitful service. Additionally, however, we must walk in spiritual power.

“Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.” Colossians 1.11

*“**I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings.**”* Philippians 3.10

*“**But you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Acts 1.8

4. We Must Walk in Joyful Thanksgiving.

Such a marvelous statement of truth hardly needs any exposition. Here are three things to be grateful for as seen in Colossians 1.12-14

⇒ **First, for privileges we don't deserve.**

*“**Giving thanks to the Father** – who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.”*

⇒ **Secondly, there are perils from which we have been delivered.**

*“**Giving thanks to the Father** – For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”*

⇒ **The third category is pressures from which we have been freed.**

*“**Giving thanks to the Father** – in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5.18