



OUTLINE

THE PRAYER FOR FILLING, 1:9-10A.

INTERLUDE: BIG, HUGE QUESTION

THE PRAYER ANSWERED, 1:10B-14.

THE PRAYER FOR FILLING

We must pray that we may be filled with the knowledge of his will so that we may live in a manner worthy of our Lord and pleasing to him (1:9-10a).

- (Colossians 1:9–10a ESV) 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 ...

INTERLUDE: THE BIG, HUGE QUESTION

Paul prays that they may be filled with the knowledge of the Father's will. So what is "his will" specifically in this

context? That is our big, huge question. **The answer simply put is the will of God in our salvation.** So what is the Father's will concerning our salvation? What is this "grace initiative"? **The Father's will is that all who believe in Jesus Christ should have eternal life and be resurrected to glory.**

- (John 6:35–40 ESV) Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father,

that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

So we follow the order of Paul’s prayers. **First Prayer:** He gives thanks that the Colossians understand the grace of God. **Second Prayer:** And now he prays that they will be filled with that understanding.

① Understanding the Grace of God.

- Hearing the word of the truth—the gospel—and understanding the grace of God in truth.

② Being Filled with the Grace of God.

- Being filled with the knowledge of the Father’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

So how do we proceed ...

1. **We must only trust knowledge of God’s will that we receive from God himself—i. e. the Spirit revealing and teaching spiritual wisdom and understanding.**

- A. The knowledge of God’s will is revealed to us by the Spirit by the word of God.
- (1 Corinthians 2:9–10 ESV) But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
- B. We understand the knowledge of God’s will through the Spirit by the word of God.
- (1 Corinthians 2:12 ESV) Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

2. **We must not trust knowledge that has been compromised by the wisdom of this world—religious or otherwise.**

- A. We must not trample on or pollute the wisdom of God with the wisdom of this world.
- (Proverbs 25:26 NASB95) Like a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.
 - (Malachi 2:1–9 ESV) **And now, O priests, this command is for you.** 2 If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. 3 Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. 4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. 5 My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. 6 True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. 7 **For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.** 8 **But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction.** You have

corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, 9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.

- (Hosea 4:6 ESV) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you [the priests] have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
 - (Hosea 4:6a NLT) My people are being destroyed because they don’t know me. Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests.
 - (Hosea 4:6a The Message) My people are ruined because they don’t know what’s right or true. Because you’ve turned your back on knowledge, I’ve turned my back on you priests.
- B. To use the wisdom of this world to be filled with the knowledge of God’s will is to use wisdom that God vows to destroy.
- (1 Corinthians 1:19 ESV) For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
- C. To use the wisdom of this world to be filled with the knowledge of God’s will is to use wisdom through which God—in his wisdom—does not allow humans to know God.
- (1 Corinthians 1:21 ESV) For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

3. **We must be filled with the knowledge of God’s will to live in a manner worthy of our Lord, 1:10a.**

THE PRAYER FOR FILLING ANSWERED

The life that is filled with the knowledge of the will of God is a life worthy of his calling and pleasing to the Lord (1:10b-14).

THAT PERSON IS ...

Bearing fruit in the work of God,

Increasing in the knowledge of God,

Being strengthened by the power of God,

And giving thanks to the Father.

- (Colossians 1:10b-14 ESV) 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.

