

Spiritual Power

Colossians 1:11

All Stand and Read Scripture

Colossians 1:9-14 (NASB)

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

¹³ For He rescued 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.

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

Paul's prayer for the Colossians in verses 9 - 12 is a very powerful prayer that outlines the steps required to live a Christian life fully pleasing to God.

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)

¹² Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship*. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove (know) what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

How can we be transformed by the renewing of our mind?

When we read and study God's Word, our mind will be renewed with spiritual truth and wisdom. It is our source for spiritual knowledge and wisdom that the world cannot know.

The prayer that we just read in verses 9 and 10 gives an insight into what Paul's heart or attitude was for the Colossians. This is a perfect example of how we should live and how we should pray for others.

Paul's prayer was not a selfish prayer. His prayer was that the Colossians would continue to mature in Christ in three ways:

- Knowledge of the Scriptures
- Understanding of the Scriptures
- Wisdom to Apply God's Word to their lives.

Paul says that we should read and study the scriptures in order to have a knowledge of what God's Word says.

Then he prays that the Holy Spirit would give us an understanding of what we have read and embedded in our hearts.

Most importantly, he prays that once we have the understanding of what the scriptures say, that we will have the wisdom to DO what it says.

We can KNOW scripture and UNDERSTAND scripture, but unless we have the wisdom to USE the scripture in our lives, it is of NO VALUE.

It is when we listen to God's will and act upon His guidance through spiritual knowledge and wisdom that we begin to "**walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**". This is the end result of our service to the Lord.

So, we MUST be students of God's Word.

Do you take time during the week to read and study the Bible?

Your life will not be fully pleasing to God if you are not a student of God's Word.

The scriptures tell us that when we accepted Christ in our life, that we are **no longer our own**. We have been **bought with a price** by Christ's death on the cross. We are to **love God** with all of our hearts and serve only Him. We are to live a life fully pleasing to God.

Paul continues in verses 10 - 12.

Colossians 1:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Paul tells us that if we are "**walking in a manner worthy of the Lord**" that one of the evidences of that walk is that we will be "**bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**"

Jesus told a very good parable concerning the proper way to bear fruit in every good work.

John 15:1-6 (NASB)

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone

does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Our fruits are only possible when we allow God to work through us. There is nothing that we can do on our own that can produce good fruit. If we are not doing God's will, we are accomplishing nothing.

The last thing that Paul prayed for is found in verses 11-12: Spiritual Power.

Colossians 1:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Today we will be looking at this Spiritual Power that Paul is referring to and what the end result of our character will be when we are "walking in a manner worthy of the Lord".

We will look at four aspects of Spiritual Power.

1. The Nature of Spiritual Power
2. The Need for Spiritual Power
3. The Magnitude of God's Spiritual Power
4. The Purpose of Spiritual Power.

BODY:

I. The Nature of Spiritual Power

In order to understand Spiritual Power, we must be able to distinguish between real spiritual power and counterfeit or fake spiritual power.

Too many Christians and churches today associate spiritual power with a "health and wealth" gospel. If God is blessing them with health and wealth, then they must be living right and providing them with spiritual power to be healthy and rich.

We all know that there are many unbelievers that have health and wealth. There are also many Christians that are having health and money issues. Worldly health and wealth is not a nature of spiritual power.

Many Christians and church leaders want to measure the evidence of spiritual power based upon

- The size of the church.
- Numerical church growth.
- Enthusiasm and High Level of Emotion in the Services.
- Dynamic Leadership.
- Constantly Adding New Programs
- Having a Pastor that can give an Eloquent Message.
- Having a Very Large Income.

These may all be the end result of a faithful service to God, but in and of themselves they are not a true measure of spiritual power. Many churches can have these external qualities but the spiritual temperature is very cold. The

problem with these external evidences of spiritual growth is that they are using the wrong yardstick. They are measuring the wrong things.

God does not measure by outward appearance or entertainment value. He measures by the heart.

True spiritual power is a supernatural power that works in the inner man.

- It is made possible through our belief in the Lord Jesus Christ through our understanding and belief in the Gospel.
- This spiritual strength allows us to be righteous in the sight of God.
- It allows us to have a family identity with God.
- It allows us to identify evil and resist it.

Ephesians 6:10-17 (NASB)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. ¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

In order to have spiritual power we must have a saving relationship with Him.

II. The Need for Spiritual Power

Why do we need spiritual power?

The simple answer is that we have no power of our own.

John 15:5 (NASB)

⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Our flesh is inherently weak and sinful.

Romans 7:18-25 (NASB)

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not. ¹⁹ For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. ²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. ²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, ²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I

myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Ever since we were saved, there has been a perpetual spiritual warfare in our life between spirit and flesh. That is why we **need** spiritual power. We should be praying, like Paul for spiritual power to overcome the fleshly desires that confront us each day.

III. The Magnitude of God's Spiritual Power

We are protected by Almighty God Himself. The creator of the universe. We get a glimpse of the glory and magnitude of God in Revelation.

Revelation 4:8-11 (NASB)

⁸ And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *is* THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

⁹ And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

God's power is beyond human comprehension or human measurements. This is the source of the power that is given to all believers.

- It is the power that created all things.
- It is the power that saved us by His Son on the cross.
- It is the power that raised Christ from the dead.
- It is the power that will raise us and transform us at Christ's second coming.

This brings to mind.

Romans 8:28-31 (NASB)

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

IV. The Purpose of Spiritual Power

Paul ends this scripture by sharing the purpose or goal of

- Having a true knowledge of God's will
- Having a true knowledge of God's Word
- Walking worthy of the Lord
- Bearing spiritual fruit
- Feeding on spiritual power

Colossians 1:11b-14 (NASB)

for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

¹³ For He rescued 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.

When we serve the Lord we will attain patience, steadfastness, and joy. This is best described in

Romans 5:1-5 (NASB)

⁵ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

By our faith in God, we can endure patiently through trials because we God is watching over us and knows our true needs because He knows our heart. We can remain steadfast with a calm attitude. Our hearts will be filled with joy because we know that we have been reconciled back to God because of His Son.

CONCLUSION:

Matthew 16:24-26 (NASB)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

- Read His Word
- Seek His Understanding and Wisdom
- Do His Will
- Let the Lord work through us to Bear Fruit
- Rely on God's Spiritual Power

Only then we can live a life FULLY PLEASING TO GOD and receive the benefits that have been promised to us.

God is not willing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Christ died on the cross, was buried, and rose again on the third day. God sacrificed His son so that we could have forgiveness of sins.

Christ died for **all** of our sins once for all. But, unless you accept Him as your Lord and Savior and live by His WILL, you will not receive the forgiveness of sins that He died to forgive for you.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, do it today. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life. **You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!**

If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior and you are still living like the world and not living a life fully pleasing to God. I urge you to seek the will of God in your life and start submitting to His will in your life. You are either **"dead to sin"** or you are **"dead in sin"**. There is no in between.

He is Lord, He is Lord.
He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.