

**Series:** *Colossians: The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ*

**Lesson:** *Persistent, Powerful Praying*

**Text:** *Colossians 1:9-14 (L2)*

**Date:** *Sunday, January 15, 2012*

*Colonial Hills  
Baptist Church*

## INTRODUCTION

Our prayers frequently tend to be anemic, at best, or non-existent, at worst. This passage addresses both of those weaknesses. Paul models for us prayer that is both powerful and persistent; probably, Paul's prayer was persistent because it was powerful. His requests weren't small and earthy; they were weighty and eternal. I think Paul understood the incredible promise of I John 5:14-15—"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us; and if we know that He hears us, [then] whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

God assures us in this passage that when we pray according to His will, our prayers will be answered. Too often, though, our prayers consist only of those personal-will requests for which we have no such divine guarantee. We pray for so-and-so to get a better job, for this person to get over her sickness, and for this individual to do well on his upcoming exam. Those prayers are certainly appropriate, but when they alone are the requests for which we pray, we may become discouraged when we see God answer in ways contrary to our own will. Such discouragement often results in faithless, weak, and inconsistent praying.

See, we don't always know God's will for someone's physical well-being, but God's Word clearly tells us what His will is for our spiritual well-being. Let us then arrest the attention of God by asking requests that are in agreement with His will. O, that our church might be filled with believers who interceded in this way one for another!

Colossians 1:9-14

*Because of this, we also, from the day we heard [about your faith, love, and hope], have not ceased praying for you and asking that*

*you may be filled {verb} with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding [so that you might] live {infinitive} worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing*

*bearing fruit {participle} in every good work,*

*growing {participle} in the full knowledge of God,*

*being enabled {participle}... ...for all steadfastness and patience,*

*...with all power according to His glorious might...*

*giving thanks {participle} with joy to the Father*

*who qualified you for the share of the saint's portion in the light,*

*who rescued us from the authority of the darkness,*

*and transferred [us] into the kingdom of His beloved Son,*

*in whom we have redemption,*

*the forgiveness of sins.*

PRAYER THAT THEY WOULD \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WILL (v. 9)

**Application:**

PRAYER THAT THEY WOULD \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WAY (vv. 10-14)

1. *They live God's way by \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10).*

2. *They live God's way by \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10).*

3. *They live God's way by \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11).*

4. *They live God's way by \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 12-14).*

(1). *God \_\_\_\_\_ us for an inheritance (v. 12).*

(2). *God \_\_\_\_\_ us from darkness (v. 13).*

(3). *God \_\_\_\_\_ us to His Son's kingdom (vv. 13-14).*

**Application:**

## CONCLUSION

Paul was a man of persistent and powerful praying, because He prayed according to the will of God, knowing that God would answer. Let us uphold one another in prayer this week, that we would know God's will and live God's way, being empowered by His gospel work.