

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 22, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Paul's Prayer in Colossians 1:9-12

Introduction to Colossians 1:9-12

Paul prayed for the saints to be filled with the knowledge of God's will so that they would be empowered to know God in a deep way, walk worthy of Him, and be fruitful in ministry.

"...[we] do not cease to pray for you...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might... for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father..."

Colossians 1:9-12

Do not cease: Paul did not cease to pray this, knowing that the Spirit would do more as he prayed more, and he was determined to keep the themes in this prayer in his conversation with the Lord.

Here let us take notes—again Paul makes it known to the Colossians as he made it known to the Ephesians and in many ways to the other churches... that he ceases not... to pray for them. Paul's heart dedication towards the maturity of the Saints is admirable and worth emulating for our time today.

We said in these posts for the last two days that the Apostolic prayers are prayer mostly also for the church.

Apostolic Prayers are Usually for the Church

We see this principle at work in the city of Ephesus. The preaching of the Word of God was so powerfully anointed that its influence "grew mightily and prevailed" across Ephesus (Acts 19:20). God's strategy was to raise up a large, anointed church with congregations across the whole city that would win a great harvest in all Asia. What happened in Ephesus was so powerful that everyone who lived in Asia "heard the word of the Lord" from Paul and others in this church.

"...so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus... So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed."

Acts 19:10, 20

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Considering the limited communication and transportation systems of the day, it seems likely that for all in Asia to hear the Word, they had to hear it not only from Paul but also from many believers who were a part of the large church at Ephesus that was inspired by Paul's anointed preaching.

When preachers are anointed and the church is revived, the saints will speak the Word and do the works of the kingdom with great consistency and a multitude of unbelievers will come to Jesus.

We do well to labor in prayer for an increase of the measure of the Spirit's anointing on the church, knowing that a harvest will surely result. No power can prevent the lost from coming to Jesus in great numbers when the church is revived and operating together in the anointing of the Spirit.

Hence the prayer of Paul for the Colossians. The aim is for the Colossians church to be strengthened to be persevering and patient and fruitful in all they do to impact the city of Colosse with the power of God in them.