

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 29
The Will, Wisdom, & Knowledge

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We will start this lesson in Colossians 1:9-11 and focus on one thought from these verses. Colossians 1:9 ***For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;***

As soon as Paul and Timotheus heard of their conversions (Colossians 1:2) to faith in Jesus Christ, they began to pray for them and did not cease. They desired that the new converts might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. For what purpose?

Colossians 1:10-11 ***That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*** In order to make that happen they were ***Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;***

The prayers of Paul, recorded by the Holy Spirit in our New Testament, bear no resemblance to the prayers that are prayed in our current-day prayer meetings. Paul prayed for himself three times asking God to remove the thorn in his flesh. The Lord's answer was, "No." (2 Corinthians 12:7-9) After that, every other recorded prayer of Paul in the Bible is for spiritual growth and spiritual maturity.

Read the prayer lists in any church you attend. You will not see very many, if any, requests asking for the things that God wants for us. The majority of the requests are for physical needs. Every physical need is immediately made known; and yet, year after year, we continue to be defeated by the spiritual weakness in our life. Spiritual prayer requests hardly ever make the prayer list. By slim chance if they do, they are not met with the urgency that we read here in the scriptures.

The prayers put in the Bible by the Holy Spirit are not in there to show us how Paul prayed, nor are they there for us to repeat word for word. They are there for us to learn by example.

Philippians 3:17 ***Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.***

A subject that comes up over and over again in the life of a Christian is this: How do I get wisdom to understand the will of God in my life? The Bible teaches us to ask God for guidance in all the decisions of our life (Psalm 27:11; Psalm 143:8; Psalm 31:3) because otherwise you are not going to make good choices. Admittedly at 72, I wish someone would have advised me at a younger age of these truths. I could have asked God first for guidance in all aspects of my life. Maybe my life would have been much more

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victorious for Him than what it has been. I believe most of us can testify to this fact. Thanks be to God for His abundant mercy to protect us even when we did not ask for His help.

Most of us have a habitual type of Christian behavior, where the only time we are on our knees calling out to God is when there is some crisis in our lives. The only time we seem to need God is when we cannot do anything else on our own. The Lord is not supposed to be the life preserver in a time when we are drowning in faithlessness. He is supposed to be the boat carrying us to safety. We should not wait until we are drowning; we need to stay in the shelter of His everlasting arms (Deuteronomy 33:27), covered by the protection of His wings. (Psalm 91:4)

This premise that we can handle all the small decisions, but for the big decisions we need God is a farce. If we want God to guide and direct us, we need to start asking Him to do it now, before we find ourselves in a downward dive to destruction or in a mundane relationship with the Lord.

Look at the underlined portions of each of these verses:
Colossians 1:2-9 vs.2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. vs.3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, vs.4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, vs.5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; vs.6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. vs.9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; Through Paul's prayer, the Holy Spirit is teaching us a principle of God's word. He was not praying for these people because they were carnal or backslidden in a worldly church. These people were 100% sold out. They loved the Lord, and they loved the brethren. There was fruit being produced in their life since they had been saved. They had a good testimony in their community.

We all have prayed before. Even before we were saved, we prayed. As a Christian, God is saying you are different, and your prayers and desires are to be different.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

What is different about the saints in Colosse? What are they praying for? How are they praying? Why are they praying?

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God is asking us to do things differently, to think differently. It is fair to say, we do not know how to do that. It is a lot easier to teach us to witness, go to church, read our Bible, dress right, and tithe than it is to teach us to have the right attitude and a right spirit. We learn how to do the right things from reading and applying the principles in the Bible to our lives on a daily basis and by keeping company with those who have followed the principles in God's word, having a testimony of good works in their lives.

There was a time in my early Christian life that I had a problem with my eyes, not physically but spiritually. I really wanted to do what God said, so I watched other men in the church to see how they reacted when a woman appeared who was not dressed properly like a Christian woman should be. They turned their heads immediately, forcing their flesh not to look at something they should not. Controlling my flesh was a huge blessing in my marriage. It made me appreciate my wife more, and our marriage grew stronger in service to the Lord.

Controlling the flesh is a battle every day, but once we have given control to the Lord, the battles will become a little easier each time. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Let's examine Colossians 1:9 ***For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;***

We are not talking about educational knowledge here. We are talking about the knowledge of God's will. The knowledge of His will is not contained in our imagination or our feelings. It is not even contained in the majority of opinions on TV or social media or of our friends. It is found in the pages of the word of God, the Bible. If we want to know what is right, it is in the Bible. If we want to know what to do, it is in the Bible. In our world today, distractions are winning the battle in many Christian's lives, luring them away from reading God's word. They are so numerous it is hard to keep up with the gadgets and programs that our trying to draw our eyes away from God daily.

God is not going to answer our prayers for wisdom while we're watching movies, looking at our phones, or watching another YouTube or snap chat video. People have spiritual problems; and when they go to the preacher and ask for advice, and he shows them what to do from the Bible, they often go right back to the same thing they were doing before, willingly submitting themselves to the same bondage.

Wisdom and knowledge are available, but we have to desire it. We must make up our minds to fight that battle that our flesh is waging. Once we decide to do it God's way, God will step in and help us along. Think about riding a bicycle: In order to get the bike moving, one has to push down on the top pedal then the bottom pedal comes up. In all reverence to the Lord, the

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Holy Spirit is the bottom pedal; we have to take the initiative then the Lord will assist.

Luke 22:39-42 *And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

This is the primary starting place to study wisdom and knowledge because as long as we are coming to God, asking Him to do our will, we cannot learn what we need to know. To walk in wisdom and in proper knowledge, we must come to God with a heart attitude that requests His will.

The reason why many Christians have a mundane Christian life is because they want to argue with what the Bible says. They will hear a Pastor preach the Bible and then request a meeting with him to discuss why their situation is unique and in need for revision from what the Bible says. A popular revision to God's word is divorce. The Bible says "once for life". The only time you can be married twice is if your spouse dies. Remarried Pastors, evangelists, and so-called teachers flood our Christian circles with no regard to what the Bible says because it does not agree with their lusts.

We ought to go to God for help, then say "Not my will, but thine be done." Yes, it may put us in some uncomfortable situations, but we know that God will always do what is best for the furtherance of the Gospel. That is what our attitude should always be.

Love my neighbor as myself, really? *I do not even like my neighbor.* Forbearing one another, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you. *I will never forget what they did to me.* There are a thousand examples on how we might revise what God said into what we want to do. These things ought not to be. God wants us to do what He says with no revision. Then our lives will be better because they are pleasing to the Lord.

Wisdom does not make us intellectual giant instantaneously. Wisdom does not put all the correct Bible verses in our minds when we need them. Wisdom is understanding that we and God are not always going to be in agreement, but He is always right.

John 4:31-34 *In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

The Lord tells us to preach His word, to witness, to attend church, to tithe, and to live with the Lord as our example. We want wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We need to start by doing what God says.

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Wisdom is available. What is keeping us from it is not God's unwillingness to impart unto us wisdom and knowledge, it is our lack of desire. Matthew 6:9-13 is the model prayer. Some people call it the Lord's prayer or the disciples' prayer.

Matthew 6:9-13 *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

What are the two most important facts we learn in these verses: 1. God is holy. 2. Come to God seeking His will not our own. Do we want Jesus to teach us how to pray? Understand these are His guidelines. Yes, He cares about us. Come to him, pour out your heart to Him, cast all your cares upon Him. He is a loving Father, and He wants to hear from you; but remember, He is Holy. The church-goer who addresses Our Lord as "Daddy" is not reverent unto the Lord. He is holy (Psalm 99:9; Luke 1:49), and Holy is His name.

Come to The Lord with a reverent attitude. Humbly ask for His will. Pray for others, and cease not to give thanks. God's way first always. It may cause a struggle in your life, but it will be His will. Jesus prayed Luke 22:42 ***Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*** He suffered an agonizing death, but He reaped everlasting rewards by obeying His Father's will.

Ephesians 1:16-18 *Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

If you want wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, start by changing your desire to His desire saying, "Father, not my will, but Thine be done."

- * Give thanks to Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ - 1 Chronicles 29:11-13
- * Pray for others - Ephesians 1:16
- * Read the Holy Bible - Psalm 119:18
- * Study the Holy Bible - 2 Timothy 2:15
- * Witness to others - 2 Timothy 4:2-5
- * Attend faithfully a Bible Believing Church - Hebrews 10:25
- * Give yourself - Romans 12:1
- * Tithe - 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; Acts 20:35

In the Old Testament, when the priests chose a sacrifice in the temple onto the Lord, it had to be perfect, no blemishes, the absolute best.

In the New Testament, we are the priests, and the temple is inside of us. The Lord expects our best on a daily basis. Give all the best to the Master, give Him first place in your heart.

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Name _____

Note: (*) signifies must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F section

1. What was Paul's desire for the church at Colosse? *
2. Why is it disrespectful to call the Lord "daddy"?
3. Why are some Christians living a boring life?
4. Why should your prayer life be different after you are saved?
5. What does your attitude have to do with getting wisdom from the Lord? *
6. Explain the sacrifices that the Priests offered to the Lord on the basis of our own life.
7. If you want wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, what are the 8 principles you must follow daily?
8. What did the Apostle Paul learn from praying for himself?
9. What did Jesus teach us when He prayed to His Father in the garden?

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10. What do we learn in Psalm 27:11?
11. What do we learn in Psalm 143:8?
12. What do we learn in Psalm 31:3?
13. How do we know that the prayers of the Apostle Paul are not to be prayed repetitiously? *
14. What is keeping us from obtaining wisdom from the Lord?

True/false

- A Christian is required to tithe each week. *
- When you pray according to the will of God, it may cause problems in your life, but you can always be confident that the Father knows what's best for you.
- We should call the Lord for help only after we have exhausted our own efforts.
- The Lord is Holy, and Holy is His name.

**Scripture memorization**

1 Chronicles 29:11-13; Psalm 99:9; Ephesians 1:16

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?