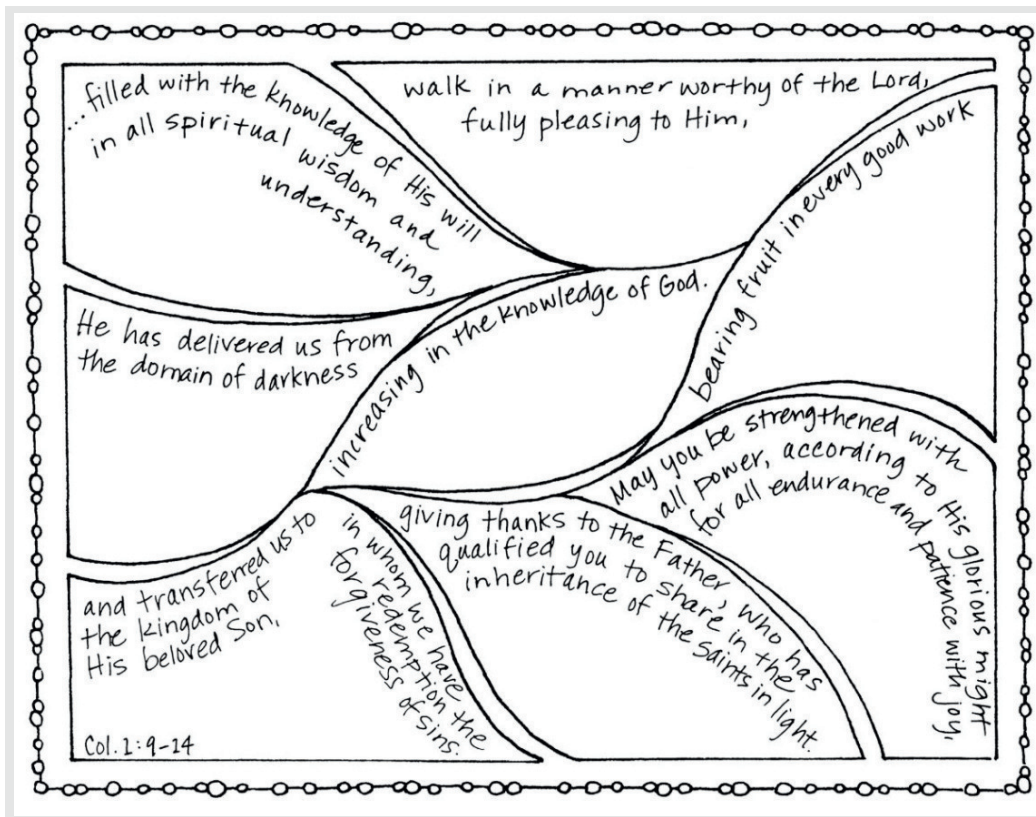




Colossians Praying Scripture Project

by Carolyn Bira



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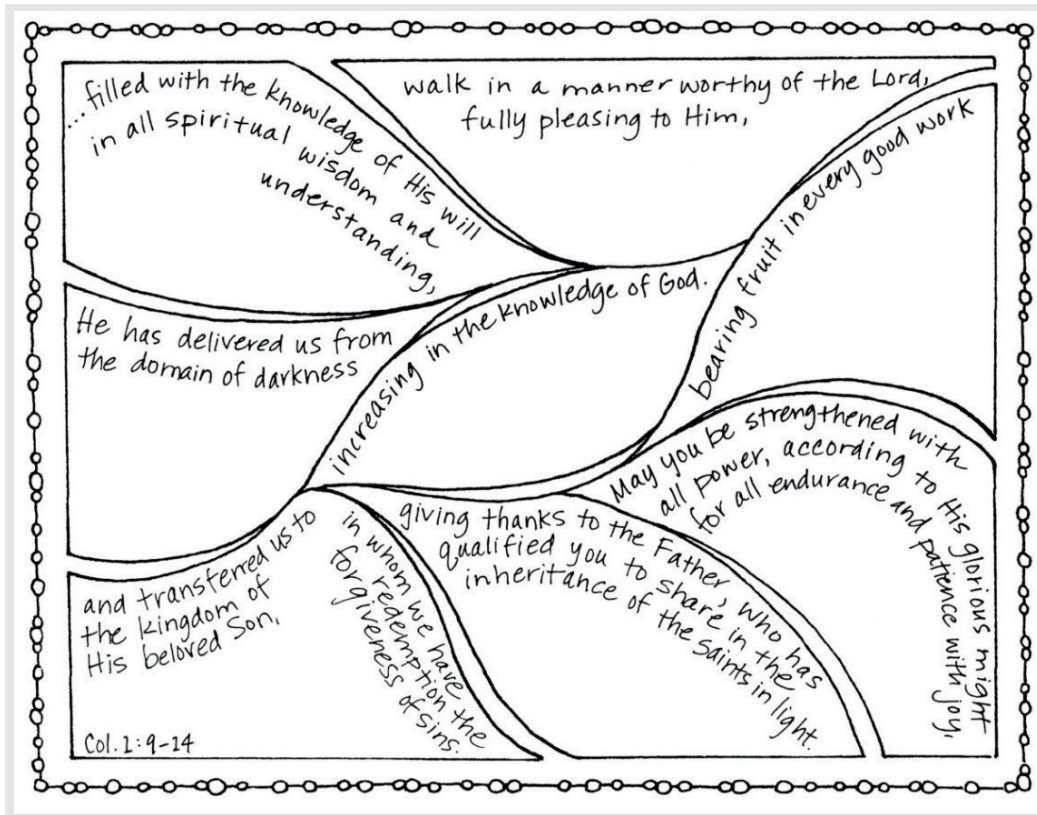
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Living Life as Prayer

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The practice of Praying Scripture may or may not be familiar to you. Regardless of your experience with praying the Word of God directly back to Him, you would probably agree that there are places in the Scriptures that are an easier entry point (e.g., The Lord's Prayer) than other passages (e.g., the genealogy of Noah). If you're looking for a way to get started with this practice, Visual Faith® Ministry would suggest Colossians 1:9-14, often called the "Yes Prayer." Read this passage to yourself, and then read it aloud.

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, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)

Paul offers this spectacular prayer to the little church in Colossae. Hundreds of years later, we read the words of these bold petitions and know that the answer to each is a resounding YES! The entire prayer falls within God's will for our lives. Turn a magnifying lens toward the eight petitions and examine them closely.

1. Filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding
2. Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him
3. Bearing fruit in every good work
4. Increasing in the knowledge of God
5. May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy
6. Giving thanks to The Father, Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light
7. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
8. And transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

What amazing gifts and blessings to pray into the life of a spouse, neighbor, dear friend, or even an enemy! What might happen if you daily prayed these words over your daughter as she prepared to catch the school bus? What might happen if you daily prayed this prayer for a grandson who is entering his first semester of college? These are incredibly powerful requests! Read over them once more. You are asking God to increase spiritual knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. You are asking Him for help in living a life that is pleasing to Him. You are asking for His strength to endure with joy the difficulties of life. You are asking for deliverance from the realm of darkness. You are proclaiming that Jesus has endured the cross and conquered the grave in order to offer forgiveness of sins *to that person for whom you are praying!* This prayer is all about changing lives. AND, as the one who prays, YOUR life will be impacted the as well. It is impossible to pray these words with sincerity and walk away unchanged. When God responds with His “YES,” you will be touched to the very core of your being.

Visual Faith® Ministry offers two of many ways to pray this Scripture. The first is very simple and may even lead you toward memorizing this passage. Simply insert the name of the person for whom you are praying. Offer God’s Word back to Him. Repeat often.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for _____, asking that _____ may be filled with the Knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that _____ may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, that _____ may bear fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May _____ be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified _____ to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered _____ from the domain of darkness and transferred _____ to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom _____ has redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The second way offered by Visual Faith® employs a practice called Prayer Spaces. In the graphic below, you are invited to add to each petition space the name of the person for whom you are praying. Add color to each space as you pray this passage back to your Heavenly Father. Repeat often. If using the card without petitions, hand-write your personalized Colossians 1:9-14 petitions in the prayer spaces. As an option, you could mail this card to the person for whom you’ve prayed, so they would know that they had been lifted up in word and in color. Another option is to add many of these colorful cards to an O-ring and pray the YES Prayer for someone new each day. Pray boldly and with confidence, for God tells us that His Word

*shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11b)*

