



# Watching and Praying for the Main Thing

*Colossians 1:9-10a*

1. What are we to **look** and **listen** for in the lives of other believers?
2. What are we to **pray for** on behalf of our fellow Christians?

## I. Prompts (Colossians 1:9)

*“**For this reason** also, since the day we heard of **it**...”*

## I. Prompts (Colossians 1:9)

Epaphras “*also informed us of **your love in the Spirit.***”

Notice this is a love **given by the Holy Spirit**, which means it is a work of God’s **saving favor** (grace) **in their lives** as God’s people.

# I. Prompts (Colossians 1:9)

**Prompt** = to move, encourage, or stimulate to action.

Think of this as Paul's prayer prompts, prayer cues, or his prayer signals moving and stimulating Paul to **respond to God** in prayer for the Colossians' **ongoing spiritual profit**.

## II. Persistence (Colossians 1:9)

*“...we have **not ceased** to pray for you...”*

## II. Persistence (Colossians 1:9)

Praying for others was an act of worship for Paul.

Persistence in prayer requires **devotion** toward God and spiritual **diligence** toward people.



## II. Persistence (Colossians 1:9)

What kind of **church culture** are **you helping to nurture** here at Grace Church Williamsburg? Is it a culture where we are being prompted to prayer for each other because we are watchful?

How are **you participating** in helping that culture to flourish among us?

## II. Persistence (Colossians 1:9)

When you recognize spiritual growth in someone's life, **TPT** them:

1. **T**hank God for that work in them
2. **P**ray that the Lord will further that work of grace in them.
3. **T**ake time to tell them.

## II. Persistence (Colossians 1:9)

We have the prompts and the persistence in our prayers for other believers to help us pray without ceasing.

The prompts concern our **spiritual watchfulness**, alertness, or vigilance for **recognizing** God's work of grace in another believer and being moved to prayer and praise.

The persistence involves our attitudes and actions of faithfully praying for them and verbally affirming them.

## II. Persistence (Colossians 1:9)

Flattery wants something **from** you; biblical affirmation wants something **for** you.

Flattery **cheapens** the relationship; spiritual affirmation **deepens** the relationship.

Flattery is aimed at **you**; godly affirmation is aimed at **God** working in and through you.

We want to be **sincere** with each other.

### III. Priority (Colossians 1:9)

*“...and to ask that you may be filled with the **knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...**”*

### III. Priority (Colossians 1:9)

*Spiritual* = of the Holy Spirit; a heavenly origin.

Spiritual and **not** worldly -- spiritual and not **of** man, but **for** man.

**This is personal knowledge of God's truth alive in your heart by the Holy Spirit so that you see this life from a heavenly frame of reference.**



### **III. Priority (Colossians 1:9)**

*“For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Prov. 2:6)*

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Prov. 1:7)*

### III. Priority (Colossians 1:9)

**God is concerned that we know how He wants us to live!**

He wrote down the *“knowledge of His will”* for us in the Bible.  
These are the **absolute, trustworthy** truths of Scripture.



## IV. Purpose (Colossians 1:10)

*“so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, **to please Him** in all respects...”*

## IV. Purpose (Colossians 1:10)

Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord is about a **lifestyle** of honoring Him -- of faithfully showcasing His character and goodness in the way you live your life in every area of life.

## IV. Purpose (Colossians 1:10)

*Being filled with the knowledge of His will* helps us **exalt** God in our worship.

And *being filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding* helps us **exhort** (spiritually affirm) one another in godly living.

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