

## **“What to Pray for Others”**

**Colossians 1:9-12**

**Tuesday Bible Lunch**

**October 15, 2019**

**Introduction:** Two weeks ago, I talked to you about the rewards of praying for other people (intercession). Praying for other people is one of the most rewarding things that you can do. Praying for other people:

1. Gets your focus off yourself
2. Get to see prayer answered
3. Improve your attitude
4. You grow spiritually
5. When you have needs, there will be intercessors for you.

“Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal. 6:7)

**Question:** What are some Biblical things to pray for other people?

**Text:** Col. 1:9-11

### **1. Pray that they will know God’s Will for their lives. (Col. 1:9)**

- This is one of the things that Paul prayed (Col 1:9).
- Epaphras, one of Paul’s converts, founded the church at Colosse.
- Paul never want to Colosse.
- From his Roman prison cell, Paul heard about the false leadership (Jewish legalism and oriental mysticism) in the church.
- Paul wrote this letter to show the preeminence of Christ (1:18).

**Application:** Prayer is a major way in knowing God’s will.

- This is true for your prayers of intercession.

- This is true for your prayers of petition.

**Illustration:** I pray this for my family most every day. I pray this for myself most every day.

## **2. Pray that they will do God's Will in their lives.**

- Knowing God's Will does not guarantee doing God's Will.
- Paul prayed that they would act on what they knew.

“That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him” (1:10a)

**Application:** Only through action does a person fulfill God's purpose.

**Illustration:** As you pray for people to do God's Will, remember that you are not the Holy Spirit. You cannot declare God's will for another person.

## **3. Pray that they will live productive lives.**

- This is what Paul prayed.
- “Being fruitful in every good work” (Col 1:10b)

**Illustration:** Jesus said, “I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit” (John 15:16).

- One of the ways the New Testament describes “fruit” is godly attitudes.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-12).*

- The New Testament also describes “fruit” as righteous behavior.

*“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (Phil. 1:11).*

- Another way the New Testament describes “fruit” is praise.

*“Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Hebrews 13:15).*

**Illustration:** Nicole Flenniken is a good example of someone who has been the recipient of many prayers who lives a very productive life. (To hear the story. Listen to the message on the church web page [www.fbp.org](http://www.fbp.org).)

#### **4. Pray that they will have a positive attitude.**

- This what Paul prayed.
- “with joy” (Col. 1:11)
- “giving thanks” (Col. 1:12)

**Application:** A positive attitude is a great witness in the negative world in which we live.

- Pray this for other people
- **Pray this for yourself.**

**Illustration:** Nicole is also a good example of how the intercessory prayers for a person has helped them be a positive person.

**Conclusion:** When you pray for other people, you will be doing what God told you to do. Let’s end today praying for Nicole as she deals with stage 4 kidney cancer.

*“Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,” (1Tim. 2:1)*