

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 12.5.2021

PRAY LIKE PAUL! COLOSSIANS 1:9-13

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Scotland's Eric Liddell is best-known these days as one of the heroes of the 1981 classic movie, "Chariots of Fire". The movie documents his journey to winning gold medals at the 1924 Paris Olympics. Liddell was a devout Christian and a missionary. Some believed he should give up the sport to preach, but Liddell believed that God had called him to race and to race for the glory of God. There is one scene in the movie in which Liddell explained to his critical sister that he will return to the mission work in China, but first he must honor God by competing in the Olympics. He then confidently stated, "God made me for a purpose. God made me fast and when I run, I feel His pleasure." In the same way, God made us a certain way. He put us here for a reason (Psalm 139:15-16). When we are fulfilling His specific purpose for our lives, we will feel His pleasure upon us, even in the midst of trial. Let's get into our study.....

1. What are some things you passionately enjoy doing?
2. What stood out to you during this week's study?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 1:9-10

As Paul earnestly prayed for the Colossians, his first request was that they be filled with an ever-growing knowledge of the will of God. As a child of God, we have a direct spiritual communication with God, a two-way relationship in which we can talk and listen to God. There are many promises in God's Word to encourage us to pray, such as: "He shall call upon me and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him" (Psalm 91:15); "And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24); "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). Scripture also tells us to pray for one another and it assures us that God hears and answers prayer.

1. Provide some examples of both strong and poor communication channels.
2. Prayer provides us direct spiritual communication with God. What do you think strong spiritual communication with God looks like?
3. Paul prayed the Colossians would be filled with an ever-growing knowledge of the will of God. When a person is filled with the Spirit, he or she can be completely controlled by the indwelling power. What does it mean to be completely controlled by the indwelling power (Ephesians 5:18)?
4. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit will reveal a specific, personal, and knowable will. Once we learn of God's purpose for our life, we need to live it. What is the purpose of God's will in the life of a Christian? (1 Thess. 2:4)
5. Cults will often prey on Christians. In deception, they will proclaim to have a deeper knowledge and attempt to confuse and pull us away by mixing some truths with false truths. How does a Christian avoid being deceived? (Psalm 119:11 and 1 Timothy 6:3-5).

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 1:11-13 and 1 CORINTHIANS 1:11-12

Paul prayed the saints might be “strengthened” with all “might” according to His glorious power. Both “strengthened” and “might” come from one of the Greek words for power or “inherent ability” (dunamis), while the word “power” in the next part of the statement comes from the word basically meaning “manifested strength” (Kratos). The Christian life cannot be lived by mere human energy. It requires supernatural strength. This strength is evident in the life of a believer who may be suffering patiently and thanking God in the midst of a trial. In 1 Corinthians 13:4, longsuffering is connected with kindness. In Colossians, longsuffering is connected with joy. To maintain victorious joy within and kindness to others requires God’s glorious power.

6. Paul prayed that the saints might be strengthened with all might according to His glorious power. In this prayer, for what reason did Paul pray the saints might be strengthened with all might according to His glorious power? (Colossians 1:11-12)
7. Glorious power is needed so we may have all patience and longsuffering with joy. During a trial, how can you access this glorious power? (Hebrews 12:1-2)
8. The difference between patience and longsuffering has been defined as the difference between enduring without complaint and enduring without retaliation. Why is important to have the right mind set mentally, a thankful spirit, a gentle heart, and be victorious in every situation? (Romans 8:28). Patience is not always easy, but the snail persevered as it slowly made aboard the ark. 😊

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

If any of us lacks wisdom, then we should pray. Prayer begins by asking that we may be filled with an ever-growing knowledge of the will of God. When a person is filled, he or she has the ability to be completely controlled by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Through this power, your specific, personnel, and knowable purpose will be revealed. When we are operating in this purpose, we will feel His pleasure upon us. Trial will come, but because of His glorious power, the same power that raised Jesus from the grave, we have the capacity to be patient, endure longsuffering, and maintain joy that is only found in Jesus.

1. In Psalm 16, David writes about the joy he has in God. David says, “He sets the Lord always before him.” Even in the regular and the mundane, we may sense His pleasure if we “set the Lord always before us.” Fill in the blank: I can feel God’s pleasure when I _____. Live this right now!
2. Think of a trial you might be going through right now. Is this trial robbing you of feeling the joy of God’s pleasure? If so, keep your eyes focused on Jesus and know all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

PRAYER

Lord, may we be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. May we walk worthy of You, fully pleasing You. May we be fruitful in every good work and increase in the knowledge of You; strengthen us with all might, according to Your glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy. Thank You for the inheritance we have through Jesus, who has delivered us from the power of darkness and has redeemed us by His blood.

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).