



ontrack devotions

GALATIANS -
COLOSSIANS

DECEMBER 2024

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Who I Will Reach

How I Will Do It

How It Went

Other Requests

Date Answered

How It Was Answered

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will **help you grow in your walk with God**. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend church _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend small group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

(List any other activities you will participate in this month—Bible study, church events, etc.)

Bible Memory:

How did I do with Bible memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ verse(s) this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus? _____

I will share Jesus with _____ this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Have you ever had someone tell you what to do when you felt they had no right to do so? Could this church have been wondering the same thing about Paul? Did he have the right or authority to write this letter? He gives the answer in verse 1 and then illustrates the answer in verses 13-24. Paul did not just write general thoughts down and send them to this church. Nor was he sending a letter that someone else wanted him to write. He had been sent by Jesus Christ and, to show them how this all came about, he shared this story with them. Having read what God had done in Paul's life, the church would know that what he wrote was from God. The church in Galatia would find Paul credible because his life, both past and at the time of the letter, demonstrated that he was a man sent from God. How do the people in your world respond when you have something to say? Does your life give credibility to what you say? In what ways have you recently hurt your credibility? If you struggle in this area, begin making the changes necessary to become someone whose actions give credibility to his words.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 1

Why was Paul so upset with Peter in this passage? Was it really such a big deal? Paul was upset because Peter was being legalistic. Legalism is judging someone's godliness by a list of rules created by people, not those found in the Bible. Legalism says a person is godly if he obeys a list of rules, which was what Peter was doing to the Gentiles in this church. He separated himself from the Gentiles because they did not behave exactly the way the Jews did. The problem with legalism is that it causes people to feel that godliness is gained by living according to a list when, in reality, it is gained by following Jesus. We aren't justified by doing the things on someone's list. Godliness is gained by having a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Legalism destroys our joy and freedom in Jesus. Never judge someone's godliness based on your standards, but on the standards of the Bible.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

GALATIANS 2

How can we become all God wants us to be? What are the keys to spiritual growth? In this passage, Paul gives us one very important key—our motivation. Paul begins by condemning those people who are trying to gain spirituality by human effort (legalism). Although they were genuinely saved through faith in Jesus, they were now being led to believe they could become more like Jesus by their own efforts. Paul reminded them that they did not receive the Holy Spirit because they lived according to a specific standard or did the right things, but because they believed what God said was true. Instead of following Jesus out of a heart of love, they were submitting to a list of rules in order to gain His favor. One of the problems with legalism is that people follow Jesus in order to gain favor with God. They don't follow with a heart of love and gratitude, but to earn God's approval. What is your motivation for following Jesus? Is it to gain His favor or because of your love and commitment to Him? It is sometimes difficult to determine our true motives, but God will reveal them to us if we ask Him to. Your motivation is key to real growth.

SAY WHAT?

How can you determine what your motivation for following Jesus is?

SO WHAT?

How can you determine whether your spiritual growth is through your effort alone or by God working?

NOW WHAT?

What conclusions have you come to about your motivation for following Jesus?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make based on today's reading?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 3

Have you ever wondered if you can lose your salvation? Is there a sin you could commit that would cost you your position as a child of God? If you have, you will find comfort in today's reading. Paul included in his letter to the church in Galatia an important fact to confirm to them and us that salvation is secure. The church was being taught by false teachers that their salvation was dependent upon completely observing the Law. They felt their salvation could be lost by failing to follow just one part of the Law. Paul corrected the error and explained that their inheritance does not depend on the Law or their ability to abide by the Law. It depends upon a promise. Their inheritance is secure because of what God said, not because of what they have done. He closes this chapter by telling them they are children of God through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. They are not children of God because of what they have done or continue to do, but because of what Jesus did. Allow this truth to motivate you to follow Jesus—not to gain security, but because you already have it!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

GALATIANS 3

What does the word "Abba" mean, and why would Paul use it in this chapter? This is an excellent word that reveals comforting elements of our relationship with God. There are many names we use for fathers and all those names communicate how we see them. Abba is an informal Aramaic term for father, communicating intimacy, tenderness, dependence, and the complete lack of fear or anxiety. Words today for father that would be similar to this word would be daddy or papa. It is a term usually used by a young child who looks into the eyes of the one they trust when they need help or are frightened. It is the term used when a child needs to talk to the one they know loves them. Paul uses that word to communicate to us the kind of relationship we can have with God through Jesus Christ. We can have a personal, intimate relationship with Him. We can go to Him at any time and with any problem and know that He will always hear and always care. When you talk to Him today, remember He is your Abba. He loves you and is waiting for you. There is nothing you need to do to earn His love and affection.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 4

If we are not to live according to a list of right and wrong, how are we to know what behavior is right and wrong? Can we do whatever we want since there is no way to gain favor with God by what we do? Not according to Paul. Paul tells us not to live by lists of right and wrong, but by the Spirit. He realizes that it is possible for some to interpret his statements as a license to do wrong. These people really use their freedom in Jesus to do what their sinful nature wants to do. Then, they say they are free from legalistic laws and able to do what they want. Paul teaches that while we do not live by lists conceived by man, we are to obey the Bible and be guided by the Holy Spirit. Knowing the principles from the Bible will then allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. As Paul says, if we follow this pattern, we will not gratify the desires of our sinful nature, but will live by Biblical principles, guided by the Holy Spirit. Are you living to gratify your sinful nature or by the Holy Spirit? Use today's questions to help determine if you are living by the Holy Spirit or following the desires of your flesh.

SAY WHAT?

How are the acts of the sinful nature demonstrated in my life? (5:19-21)

SO WHAT?

In what ways do I see the fruit of the Spirit in my life? (5:22-26)

NOW WHAT?

How can I deny my sinful nature and live by the Spirit?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should I make in light of today's reading?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 5

PROVERBS 31

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Did Paul intend verse 7 in today's reading to encourage us or to cause us concern? If we sow sin, it will produce negative consequences in our lives. Reaping the consequences of sin is an undeniable and necessary message we need to hear. However, there is a positive side of this passage. The principle given is that we will all reap what we sow. Therefore, if we do good and follow Jesus faithfully, we will reap good things. Even when it looks like the effort you are putting in and the good you are trying to accomplish is accomplishing nothing, you will reap the positive results one day if you don't give up. Remember, "A man reaps what he sows." Therefore, do not become weary in doing good! In what area of your life right now do you need to apply verse 9? Remember that the proper time will come, and when it does, it will be worth waiting for.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

GALATIANS 6

What if my present circumstances don't work out? What if they get worse and never get better? Have you ever been haunted by those thoughts? Maybe today you are in the midst of a situation that looks tough and there seems to be no way out. All you see ahead is more pain and difficulty. It looks like it will never change and you have concluded that there is no hope. If that describes you, then you may have found today's reading encouraging. Paul tells us that we have been chosen by the one who works out everything in conformity to His will. Think about that for a moment. What in our life is not included in everything? Is your present situation included? God knows exactly what is going on in your life and He wants you to know that it will work out exactly as He has planned. You must trust Him and realize everything includes what you are presently facing. Ultimately, God's will is going to be accomplished even if right now it might not seem like that is possible. Trust Him and be amazed at what He does. God knows what He is doing and His plan is right on schedule.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 1

What kinds of things do you pray for? If God answered your prayers, what would happen in your world as a result of your requests? If you ask for the kind of things Paul asked for in today's reading, your world would never be the same. Look at some of the things Paul asks God to do in people's lives in this passage. In verse 18, he prays that their eyes would be opened so they could see three things. He knew that if the Ephesians could see these as clearly as God intended, they would never be the same. First, Paul wanted God to open their eyes to the hope they had. Second, he asked that they see the riches of the inheritance God had waiting for them. Third, he requested that God open their eyes to the power that was available to them. Think of what would happen in your world if you had your eyes opened in these three areas. Start today and ask God to open your eyes. Ask Him to do the same for others. Ask Him to do what will really change lives. You and your world will never be the same!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

EPHESIANS 1

What does it mean to be dead in your sins? In today's reading, Paul gives four characteristics of someone who doesn't follow Jesus. First, he says that those who are dead in their sins follow the ways of the world and live by its value system (vs2). Second, they follow Satan (vs2). They live according to his goals and can't resist his temptations. They have no power over sin. In fact, they are his slaves. Third, they gratify the cravings of their sinful nature (vs3). They do whatever makes them feel good and is comfortable. They are controlled by their desires. They have no self control. Fourth, they follow the desires and thoughts of their sinful nature (vs3). This characteristic literally means they willfully choose to go against God and follow the world. Thankfully, God saw us in this condition and sent Jesus to provide a way out. Why? That He might show the incomparable riches of His grace. Are you living as one who is dead in their sin and needs to be made alive? Do you have a burden for those who are still dead in their sin?

SAY WHAT?

How does someone act who is dead in their sin?

SO WHAT?

How does someone act who is alive in Jesus?

NOW WHAT?

What do those two lists reveal about your own life?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of today's reading?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 2

Racism and prejudice are despicable. Nobody who truly understands the Bible and follows Jesus will engage in prejudice of any kind. This passage shows us why. Paul explained to this church, made up of mostly Gentiles, that at one time they were outside of God. They were not part of God's promise. Jesus Christ came and abolished what divided the Jew and the Gentile. He made it possible for all people to become part of the body of Jesus Christ. There are no longer foreigners or aliens. The power of the gospel goes beyond race, ethnicity or nationality and makes people of all races and nationalities one. We are all members of one body. Our churches ought to be an example to the world that the Gospel of Jesus Christ breaks the walls that divide us. Does your life demonstrate you believe this? Is your church an example of this to your community? Jesus Christ broke down the walls that divide. Do not be a part of building them up again or allowing them to remain.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

EPHESIANS 3

What does it mean to live a life worthy of your calling? Followers of Jesus often lose credibility in the eyes of the world because they do not walk worthy. They talk a big talk, but it seldom matches their walk. The word Paul uses here addresses that very issue. The word worthy is a term which originally had to do with scales. If someone wanted the scale to balance, they would place an equal weight on the other side. When it was balanced, it was worthy. Paul wrote in the previous three chapters about what we have if we follow Jesus. For the rest of the book, he will tell us how we ought to act in light of this truth. On one side of our scale is what Paul described in chapters 1-3. Paul now says the other side, our behavior, must balance or be worthy of what is true of us. Are you following Jesus? If you are, do you walk worthy of who you are? Do your actions balance with what Jesus has done in you? What changes do you need to make to walk worthy? What is keeping you from making those changes?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
EPHEISANS 4

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

In today's reading, we find a section that explains how to become more like Jesus. It contains the pattern for putting into practice all Paul has discussed in chapters 1-3. It is called the "replacement principle." Paul teaches us that becoming more like Jesus is more than just stopping wrong behavior. For those who struggle with lying, just stopping is not enough. Change involves replacing the wrong behavior with the right behavior. A liar must not only stop lying, but must start telling the truth. A person who steals should not just stop stealing, they must start to be generous and give. If we struggle with our thought life, we cannot just stop thinking bad thoughts, we need to replace those thoughts with good, pure thoughts. Often we make decisions to put off wrong behavior or thoughts but never follow through in putting on the right behavior and thoughts. When we determine what to put off, we must then put on what the Bible tells us is the right behavior. In what area of your life do you need to replace the wrong with what's right? Use today's questions to help you get started putting on.

SAY WHAT?

What specific attitudes and/or behaviors do you need to put off?

SO WHAT?

What specific behavior and/or attitudes do you need to put on in order to replace the wrong ones?

NOW WHAT?

What plan can you develop to make sure you put off sin and put on what's right?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of today's reading?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 4

What does it mean to follow God's example? Paul explains that we need to be imitators of God. We see people everywhere who imitate those they want to be like in appearance, attitudes, and actions. Paul stresses that if you follow Jesus, you need to be imitating God. We need to act like He would. While at work, school or home we need to act like Jesus would. When people watch us, they need to see Jesus Christ. Who are you imitating? Do your actions, attitudes, and appearance demonstrate that you are striving to be like Jesus? Can people see Him in all you do? If not, what needs to change?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

EPHESIANS 5

When He was on earth, did Jesus use the armor of God to stand against Satan's schemes? In the book of Luke, Jesus used a piece of the armor to fight off Satan's temptations—He used the sword, which is the Word of God. In verse 17, Paul tells us to take up the sword of the Spirit. The word for sword here is not a large sword pulled out of the belt, but a small dagger-like sword used in hand to hand combat. It had a very specific purpose and target. Paul wasn't referring to the Bible in general, but specific verses in the Bible that deal with particular situations. Our sword, in hand to hand combat against Satan's schemes, is specific verses that attack specific schemes of Satan. When Satan strikes us with fear, we strike back with verses like Philippians 4:6-7. That is what Jesus did in Luke 4:1-13. We need to arm ourselves with specific verses that address the specific scheme Satan is using against us. What verses do you need to memorize in order to stand against Satan? Use today's questions to get started.

SAY WHAT?

In what way is Satan currently attacking you?

SO WHAT?

What specific verses can you memorize to help you fight these attacks? Be willing to ask someone if you cannot think of any.

NOW WHAT?

Write some of them here to begin the process of memorizing them?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of today's reading?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 6

If you had to make a choice between something that is good, better, or best which one would you choose? Most would say that they would want the best, but too often they are more than willing to settle for better or good. Our world seems to be very satisfied with just getting by or just being good enough. We are satisfied with good enough grades, a good enough marriage, or having a good enough job. How do we make sure we pursue the best? We find the answer in Paul's prayer. He asked God to grant two requests. We find them in verse 9. The first is that their love would abound more and more in knowledge. This means to be learning new Biblical information. Secondly, he asks for depth of insight. This is a gut feeling about something being right or wrong. Paul knew that if they were growing in their knowledge of the Bible and gaining insight on how to apply it, they would chose what was best. The same could be true of us. Ask God to give these things to you as well. Then commit to be faithful to read the Bible and consider how you can apply it to your life.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

PHILIPPIANS 1

What words would describe your attitude most of the time? Are you known for humility or pride? According to today's passage, your attitude should be just like Jesus Christ's. Paul tells us that Jesus Christ was in every way God, but He didn't demand or fight for the advantages or rights of being God. If He had, He would not have left the throne room of heaven to become a man. Instead, He was able to make Himself nothing and become a man. He not only became a man, but also a servant who was obedient to death. However, it was not just any death. He became obedient to death on a cross, which was the most humiliating way to die in that culture. Why? Because He cared about your needs above His own. Are there areas of your life in which you are prideful? Are you willing to put aside your position and what might come with it in order to serve others? Is God speaking to you about an area in which your attitude is not like Jesus? Use the questions to help you make a plan to begin changing today.

SAY WHAT?

In what areas do you find it difficult to have an attitude like Jesus?

SO WHAT?

Why is it hard for you to have humility in these areas?

NOW WHAT?

How can you begin to demonstrate humility?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of this passage?

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 2

What does "to work out your salvation" mean in this passage? We know that it certainly does not mean that you can earn your salvation, because that would contradict what Paul taught in the book of Romans and several other places in his writings. A close look at verse 13 explains Paul's meaning and gives us one of the greatest promises in all the Bible. Paul tells them to work out the results of their salvation—to make sure that their lives demonstrate fruit from their salvation. Why could he expect them to be able to see those results in their lives? Because, according to verse 13, "it is God who works in you to will," (the want to), "and to act," (the ability to carry it out), "according to His good pleasure." In other words, it is God who gives you the desire to do what is right and also the ability to carry it out. Success in following Jesus is possible for everyone who is saved. For example, if you want to be more faithful in your Bible reading or sharing Jesus, ask God to help you want to and the ability to do it. In what area of your life do you need the will to do what is right? Start by asking God to give it to you!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

PHILIPPIANS 2

PROVERBS 2

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Why would Paul, at one time in his life, feel he was right with God, even though he was not? The answer? He put confidence in the wrong things. At one time he thought he was righteous because of his heritage. He had been born into a Jewish family and had followed all the Jewish regulations and laws. He was a Hebrew of Hebrews, which meant he had come from a family that avoided all assimilation into the popular culture of the day. They remained true to the Law. He became a Pharisee. He kept the Law and lived according to its strict standards. He had so much zeal for God he even persecuted the church. According to Jewish standards, he was faultless. But, he wasn't following Jesus. He felt he was righteous because of the spiritual things he had done and because of the family into which he had been born. Could you be making the same mistake? Do you think you are following Jesus because you go to church and do good things? What have you put your confidence in? Use today's questions to examine your life. It might change your life.

SAY WHAT?

What do people look for to determine whether or not they are following Jesus?

SO WHAT?

What is evidence that you are or are not following Jesus?

NOW WHAT?

What do you need to do in light of your answers above?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of this passage?

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 3



What an amazing statement the Apostle Paul makes in today's reading! He says in verse 13, "one thing I do." The one thing he did was to press on toward the goal to win the prize. No matter what he did in his life, it could all be boiled down into one thing. How did he do it? By forgetting the past and straining toward the future. Why is it important to forget the past? First, the past can cripple you with guilt over past sin or failures. Secondly, the past can make you proud. You can look back and become satisfied with what you have done and no longer strive for what is ahead. So, if Paul wanted to achieve his one goal, he had to forget the past and strive for the future. Guilt and pride would prevent him (and you) from becoming more like Jesus. What is your one goal? Is it to win the prize God has for you? Forget the past, its failures and its successes, and strive for what is ahead. The past can be a dangerous place, so leave it there!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 3

Today is an important day for those who follow Jesus. It is a day we celebrate the greatest gift that was ever given, Jesus Christ. As you read that incredible story, reflect on your life. Instead of making this day about gifts alone, take the opportunity to reflect on the greatest gift ever given to you. Are you thankful for what Jesus has done for you? Does your life communicate you are? Use the space provided to write out a prayer of thanksgiving for all Jesus has done for you.

Many years ago You gave the greatest gift ever given by sending Jesus to earth as a baby. Today, I want to thank you for...

EXTRA READING
LUKE 2

One of the beautiful things about the Bible is how God's choice of words make it perfectly clear what He expects of us. Today, we find a verse that does exactly that. Paul tells the church in Philippi not to be anxious about anything, and in everything, to present their requests to God. That is all-inclusive. God does not want us to worry about one thing, no matter what it is. We should not fret or worry about anything. Instead, when we face something that could make us anxious, we are to take it to God in prayer. We must not only take it to God, but take it with a thankful heart. We must be thankful for the certainty that He will always provide and will always meet our needs. He will either take care of what concerns us or He will give us grace to allow it to strengthen us. Therefore, in everything, take your concerns to God. What are you anxious about today? What are you concerned might take place? Whatever the circumstances, do not be anxious. Instead, give it to God in prayer. Ask Him to take care of it. Then His peace will guard your heart. Why not take it to Him right now?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 4

When you pray, what do you pray for? As you have read through these four books, known as the Prison Epistles, hopefully you have learned a great deal from observing the way Paul prayed. In this passage, we have another one of his prayers to examine. It gives us an example of how to pray, as well as the results of our prayers in the lives of those we pray for. Paul prayed that God would fill the people in the church of Colosse with the knowledge of His will through spiritual wisdom and understanding. We find that there are six results from this prayer. They will live a life worthy of the Lord, they will please God in every way, they will bear fruit in every good work, and they will grow in the knowledge of God (vs 10). In addition, they will be strengthened with all power and they will joyfully give thanks to God (vs 11). Who would not want these items to characterize their life? Imagine what would happen in your community if these six things began to show in people's lives. Like Paul, why not ask God to give these characteristics to you and to those you pray for. You will be amazed by what He does!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 1

Have you noticed, as you read your Bible, how important certain words are? Change one seemingly insignificant word and the whole meaning of a verse or passage changes. There is one of these words in today's reading. It could be easily overlooked or missed. But if God had chosen a different word, the whole meaning would change. Look at the pronoun Paul uses in verse 29. He talks about how he is striving to admonish and teach them with all wisdom that he might present them in every way perfect to God. It sounds like hard, tiring work doesn't it? How can he do that? He tells us by the pronoun he uses. If we are going to accomplish what God wants for us, we must also learn to operate with HIS energy. Paul operated in God's power, not in his own human strength. You may be struggling because you are trying to accomplish things in human strength only and not God's. Allow His unlimited energy to strengthen you today. Stop trying to live in your own effort. Take time today to surrender your will and let God have complete control.

SAY WHAT?

How can you tell if you are only using your own energy?

SO WHAT?

How can you tell if you are using the supernatural energy God provides?

NOW WHAT?

What steps can you take to use the supernatural power of God?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 1

As you read this chapter, can you feel the emotion Paul had as he wrote? He was very concerned about what was happening in this church. There were some who came into the church and taught that people needed to live according to a set of rules in order to be spiritual. In other words, they were being legalistic. According to verse 22, they had made up rules not found in the Bible. Paul's concern was that, while they had an appearance of wisdom, living by those standards gave them no power over sin. Examine your life. Do you have power over sin both mentally and physically? When people wrong you, do you have the power to forgive and move forward? If not, it could be that you are not following Jesus and therefore have no victory over sin. Spend some time today honestly examining your life. Tomorrow's reading will tell you how to change what you find.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 2

We arrive at today's reading eager to learn how to put into practice yesterday's text. Paul tells us that since human standards and regulations do not give us any power over sin, we are to set our hearts on Jesus. How? First, we must have our hearts set on things above. Our ambition needs to be to please God alone. Second, we need to dwell on those things. As we dwell on them, we will desire them and then seek to put off greed, evil desires, anger, rage, malice, and filthy language. Not only will we stop doing them, but we will replace them with the qualities he lists in verses 12-15. He then closes with three keys to success in this area. First, we accomplish this by letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts (vs15). Second, by letting the Word of Christ (the Bible) dwell in us (vs16). Third, by doing everything in the name of Jesus (vs17). How are you doing in this process? Use today's questions to help you change these areas of your life.

SAY WHAT?

In what ways can you begin to allow the peace of Christ to rule in your heart?

SO WHAT?

In what ways can you begin to allow the Word of God to dwell in you richly?

NOW WHAT?

How can you begin to do everything in the name of Jesus?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of what this passage teaches?

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 3

How many opportunities, in a typical day, do you have to impact others? How many opportunities do you have to encourage someone who is discouraged? How many people will you see who are ready to give up, even though they may not appear so? How many opportunities do you have to help someone make an important decision about their future? How many opportunities do you have to talk about Jesus? How many opportunities do you have to treat someone the way Jesus would? If you are honest, you would have to answer all of those questions with the word many. With that knowledge in mind, Paul closes this letter with an important admonition. He tells them to make the most of every opportunity. What a great prayer it could be for you each day. "Please God, help me to see the many opportunities I have to influence my world and to make the most of every opportunity to impact others." What an amazing prayer to begin a new year!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 4



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faith-based gap year programs helps
Christian young adults:**

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your God-designed purpose and path.

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essential life skills with a strong biblical worldview.

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discounts to keep you on pace toward a degree!**

FOR IN HIM **ALL THINGS** WERE
CREATED: THINGS IN HEAVEN
AND ON EARTH, VISIBLE AND
INVISIBLE, WHETHER THRONES
OR POWERS OR RULERS OR
AUTHORITIES; **ALL THINGS** HAVE
BEEN CREATED THROUGH HIM
AND FOR HIM.
COLOSSIANS 1:16

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