



What can we learn from Colossians 1:3?

Paul is writing to the church at Colosse:

“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you.”

Paul is telling the church that he is praying for them....and thanking God for them. Do you include JOY in your daily prayers?

Some of us don't know what to pray for JOY besides, “Lord, let us grow and get a building.”

Do you need some help knowing what to pray for JOY? Paul gives us some help in another letter to another church in Ephesus.

He says, *“I pray that God may **strengthen you with POWER** through His Spirit so that Christ may dwell in your hearts.”*

*“And I pray that you may have **POWER to grasp** how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”*

*“and **to know** that this love surpasses knowledge.....that you may **be filled** with the fullness of God.”*

These verses give us some ideas of how to pray for JOY:

- 1) **Thank** God for JOY: a church that preaches and teaches God's Word from the Bible, for the faithfulness of the people, for the generosity and caring and witness of JOY members.
- 2) **Pray** for the Holy Spirit's **POWER** that we **grow stronger** daily in our knowledge and love of God.
- 3) **Pray** that we are flooded with a never ending and ever increasing desire for Jesus.

When God answers that prayer, we will know it. We will know it because we will desire to know the thoughts of God. The thoughts and works of God only come to us through His Word. More exposure to His Word.....more growing, more grasping how wide, high, long and deep is the love of Christ.

What are the ways you are exposed to God's Word each day? Here are some suggestions:

- 1) **Set aside a time** for actually opening your Bible (not just the Portals)even for 5 minutes. Start with the Psalms, Proverbs or any book and read through it.
- 2) **Tune in** to the Christian Radio Station: KHCB – 107.5 FM or KSBJ -89.3Fm. KSBJ has great contemporary music and KHCB has teaching by great teachers and thoughtful music.

- 3) **Attend** a Bible Class on Sunday morning. We are ever expanding our topics and teachers. It takes setting your clock an hour earlier and arriving at church at 9:10 am.
- 4) **Attend** a JOY group, a group that meets a few times a month in homes for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. If you do not have one in your neighborhood, consider opening your home. Talk to Pastor John.

Paul encourages the church to grow. JOY encourages members to grow.

When we are daily flooded with the desire for JESUS, the Spirit will rock our world!