

e-concepts

A Weekly Publication of Relational Concepts Inc.

3 Prayer Requests We Should Always Make for One Another

By Dr. David DeWitt

*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask **that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light (Colossians 1:9-12).*

THE PRAYER – *That you may be filled with the knowledge* [Paul prays that they will acquire and process information] *of His will*. The emphasis is on knowledge of the will of God, not just the laws of God. By the way, I have a side comment on prayer. Most times when I am in a group where prayer requests are given, ~90% of them are about healing (suffering due to sickness or a death in the family). But I find very few healing prayers in the Bible, probably more than ~90% are for something else, like Paul’s prayer here for their knowledge, spiritual wisdom, and understanding. *Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead, the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen (Hebrews 13:20-21).*

THE PRAYER – *That you may be filled with spiritual wisdom*. The phrase *spiritual wisdom and understanding* exists only here in the New Testament, but wisdom is used 49 times and means “a skill for living life.” Wisdom is an understanding of how life works and spiritual wisdom is that same wisdom with a consideration of the revelation of the Word of God. In Proverbs, wisdom is what usually happens most of the time. It is used to describe an earthly skill of a person clever at living life. But here, Paul adds the word *spiritual*. In the New Testament wisdom includes the revelation from Christ and the apostles. The wisdom of the world is sometimes clever and sometimes stupid and perverted in morality. But it is in the dark without the revelation of God.

THE PRAYER – *That you may be filled with understanding*. Understanding is translated as “comprehension,” “insight,” or “cleverness.” Understanding is the definitive, or operative word for wisdom, and it ties together pieces of knowledge (connects the dots). **Understanding is about how pieces of knowledge fit together in such a way that they make sense, and spiritual wisdom extends that understanding to include the revelation of the Word of God.** So, for example, we can have knowledge (scientific, logical, demonstrable, undeniable, knowledge) that light is a wave and light is a particle, but we cannot understand how that can be true, or how they change when viewed differently. So faith is never a blind leap. It is always based on reasonable verifiable knowledge, but not understanding, because we don’t necessarily understand everything we know. So we can have some understanding, and greater understanding than the world, but understanding, like knowledge, is limited to our revelation. *Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (1 Corinthians 1:19-20).*

THE GOAL – *That you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord*. “Walking” is synonym for living the Christian life. It is mentioned by both the apostles Paul and John repeatedly throughout the New Testament.

THE GOAL – *That you may bear fruit in every good work*. Bearing fruit is another common New Testament metaphor of eternal accomplishments. Jesus gave us the basic principle in the parable of the soils. *But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance (Luke 8:15).*

THE GOAL – *That you may increase in the knowledge of God*. To know God is pleasing to God. *For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings (Hosea 6:6).*