

NURTURING NEW CONVERTS

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
NURTURING NEW CONVERTS
Bible Text: Colossians 1:1-12

Prayer

Father in the name of Jesus Christ we thank you for this day, let your kingdom be established on us even as we study thy word that we will be doers of it. Thank you for praying in Jesus' mighty name. Amen 🔥🙏

Introduction

You are most welcome to today's study in the name of Jesus Christ. Please follow today's study carefully because the Lord is about to open our eyes to the current need of the church, for the church to stand today, then there are things needed to be known and do, if we would have a church like the days of the early apostles of Christ then we must be of understanding and not dull of hearing.

Bible Text

Colossians 1:1-12 KJV

Colossians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, **1:2** To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **1:3** We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, **1:4** Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, **1:5** For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; **1:6** Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: **1:7** As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; **1:8** Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. **1:9** For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **1:10** That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; **1:11** Strengthened with all might, according to his

glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; **1:12**
Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of
the inheritance of the saints in light:

Study

The church at Colosse was one of the churches Paul laboured on but it got to a time he was not available to continue with them but Epaphras who was a faithful Minister was sent to them to minister to them that they might not lack anything. This minister nurtured the church just the way Paul would have done because he was well grounded in the faith and had been in the ministry with Paul for a long time, he was no longer a novice by the time he left Colosse to give the report of the church welfare to Paul, they were already flourishing in the fruit of the Holy Spirit—love. This gladdened Paul's heart and he said that since the day they heard of this, they have not ceased to pray for them and to ask that they will be filled with the knowledge of God's will.

The first thing Paul and the other believers who are strong in the faith did for the new converts was intercession. They did not cease, which implies that it is was done consistently, regularly, constantly, and not occasionally they made it a point of duty to be praying for those converts daily so that they would be well rooted and grounded in the faith, this means that the matter of salvation is beyond the physical it also means that after a soul is won there is more to do, it's an error to win a soul and then leave the soul to fend spiritually for himself, he will eat poisons, just the same way once a child is born he needs to be well taken cared of.

Intercession is very important and must be taken seriously; it must be done intentionally. **Colossians 1:9 KJV** For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; Paul says they made it a point of duty to pray and make special request for them. This was done because the endpoint of any soul that is won and is not being interceded for can be a falling away. Strong intersection is needed.

There are some requests these ministers of God made to God, on behalf of the church which we must learn from and put into practice.

The first thing they did was to create a desire in themselves about the new convert they desired that they are well grounded in the faith, when there is a craving for something to be well seen in the lives of others it will bring

about doing all it will take to see it achieved in the lives of the people. They understood that if their desire which is for the Colossian church to stand firm in Christ would be fulfilled then they must take necessary steps in prayers and these they did by praying certain prayer points steadily and consistently until the church was firm, these prayers are important and necessary for all churches today because many are weak and already falling and then it seems like the gates of hell is already prevailing whereas it is not so, God has not been called into the matter through fervent intercessory prayers by those who have a burning desire to see that others are grounded in the faith.

These are those who are ready to knock on heaven's gate on behalf of others praying the prayers that would place the feet of the church firm on the Rock which is Christ. Let's see the prayer points, the strong brethren were praying for the new converts.

1. They requested that new converts be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Examining the prayer requests carefully reveals that faithful ministers of Christ recognize the importance of new believers having a clear and deep knowledge of God's will. The first expectation for all converts is to acquaint themselves with the will of God. They are transitioning from a family estranged from God, and having been born into a new family, they must begin to learn the will of their new Father, which is contrary to that of their former father.

Understanding spiritual matters must go beyond the surface and take deep roots in the faith, enabling them to stand and be separated from the world. Once filled with such understanding, they would resist conformity to the ways of the world. The Word of God renews their minds, allowing them to prove what is acceptable to God and determine His perfect will. **Romans 12:2 KJV** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

One tragedy that has befallen today's church is that there is no longer a clear and deep understanding of God's will. There are now so many churches void of spiritual knowledge and wisdom, organizing things and running the body like a business organization. There must be a comprehensive understanding and discernment of spiritual things, but many are too carnal today to understand spiritual matters. There must be a

deep insight into the ways and purposes of God. For every of God's law, there is a purpose for it; there's a reason standing behind every ordinance.

When a set of people gets to know these things deeply, they will be able to come to terms with what God's will is. Then, they would shift from their carnal ways, such as drinking, to a spiritual way. For the church not to remain carnal was why the Apostle Paul and others prayed for them to have deep and clear knowledge and understanding of the will of God.

When knowledge and understanding come in, light follows, and then folly is parted with. **Ephesians 5:17 KJV** *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.* God wants us to be enriched in utterance and enough knowledge so that we will not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine which flies about today. **1 Corinthians 1:5 KJV** *That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;*

2. They prayed that the new converts would walk worthy of the Lord:

Looking into the intercessory prayers, Paul prayed for the Colossian converts, we can see that he concluded they should live and conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Lord. This implies that those converted to Christ must lead lives entirely different from their pre-Christian ones. They should strive to please the Lord fully and have the desire to please Him in all things (**1 Thessalonians 4:1 KJV**: *"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more"*). Paul emphasizes that the Thessalonian church received guidance on how to walk and please God, underlining the importance of involving God in all aspects of life.

Moreover, Paul emphasizes that when a soul gets saved, his desires are expected to change. The longings for worldly things should no longer dominate; instead, the focus should shift to pleasing the Lord. The works of the flesh and the will of God are in sharp contrast, necessitating a change in one's desires (**Galatians 5:17 KJV**: *"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would"*).

Changing one's desires becomes easier for a new convert with prayer support. Satan attempts to hold onto a person's desires, making prayer crucial for allowing the power of God to transform desires towards pleasing the Lord in all things. Pleasing the Lord in all aspects leads to fruit-bearing in every good work. Every Christian must bear good fruits, and it is the

desire to please Him in all things that fosters this. Pleasing God partially results in bearing a good fruit only in part.

It was prayed that the new converts would grow steadily, increasing in the knowledge of God, to move beyond the baby stage of spirituality. This doesn't happen overnight; it's a gradual process. While many have the desire to please the Lord, impatience with oneself impedes steady growth.

Jumping levels isn't possible; there are stages of growth that cannot be skipped. Paul did not pray for an immediate leap to the highest stage, recognizing the importance of a gradual process. Steadiness, not slowness, is key, and growth depends on one's attitude towards things pertaining to growth. Some think steadiness is the same as slowness, this is not so, you can be fast and steady, it's only about consistency.

Unfortunately, some have been consistent in their work with God for only a short time, expecting great results quickly, treating God as a magician. An established relationship with God is necessary to witness evidence of growth. Paul prayed that they would increase in the knowledge of God, understanding His will (**Ephesians 5:17 KJV: "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is"**).

Lack of knowledge leads to destruction (**Hosea 4:6 KJV: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children"**). This prayer underscores the importance for new converts to gain deeper knowledge and clearer insights to distinguish right from wrong.

3. They prayed that the new converts would be strengthened with all might for patience and long-suffering: (Colossians 1:11 KJV: "Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness"). This prayer is crucial in contemporary times due to the pre-existing beliefs many held before coming to Christ.

Adequate understanding of why a person should be saved helps them stand firm even in the face of trials.

However, intercessory prayers are still essential to strengthen people during challenging times faced because of their faith in the Lord.

New converts need to be invigorated and strengthened with power because of their inherent spiritual vulnerabilities. They are susceptible to attacks from the evil one, similar to how a newborn baby is vulnerable to germs and diseases. Intercessory prayers serve as vaccines for these new believers in God's vineyard. Many converts may falter or return to the world because the wicked one can gain power over them in the absence of proper prayer vaccination. This vulnerability makes them susceptible to spiritual germs and diseases, leading to their spiritual death.

Therefore, it is crucial that consistent intercessory prayers are offered for new converts. They should be prayed for to receive power according to the measure of God's glory, enabling them to exercise every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy.

The Christian journey involves endurance and patience, akin to running a race. Just as one must keep running in an endurance race despite all odds, it takes the ability to endure to the end to receive the prize. To ensure that new converts make it to the end, they must be prayed for to receive the grace—the enabling power—to run the race to completion.

Praying for patience is indeed crucial for new converts, manifesting in two essential ways:

1. **Patience to wait:** According to **Romans 8:25 KJV**, "**But if we hope for that we see not, then do we wait with patience for it.**" Prayers should be directed towards providing strength for new believers to patiently wait for the unseen glory. Waiting can be challenging and tiring, requiring divine strength as the arm of the flesh alone cannot sustain it.

2. **Patience to bear:** As stated in **1 Corinthians 13:7 KJV**, "**Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**" The love of God rooted in the hearts of the new converts enables them to bear all things for His sake, even with joy. This includes the patience to endure shame and insults for Christ's sake, preventing the convert from turning away. When new converts are empowered with God's glory, they can stand firm in the faith, finding delight in the Lord.

4. **There's a call for thanksgiving on behalf of the newly converted souls,** as expressed in **Colossians 1:12 KJV**: "**Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.**" The miracle of saving a soul is unparalleled, and only God can accomplish it.

Expressing gratitude for these souls is essential, acknowledging that God enabled them to partake in the inheritance of the saints in the light. Special thanks are warranted for God, who can keep them and present them to Christ as chaste virgins, as emphasized in **2 Corinthians 11:2 KJV**: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

We have come to the end of this study, please answer these questions.

1. Explain how a new convert can be related to a new born baby, in regards to a need for intercessory prayers.
2. How many types of patience is needed for a convert, and what are they?
3. What did you learn from the study?

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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