

Pray for believers to be...

Controlled by God's desires and direction. (9)

Controlled by the Spirit - That God would have His way in the lives of His people
Spiritual insight – Personal knowledge that comes about through personal experience
How do you grow in your knowledge of God?

- 1. Fear the Lord (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10)**
- 2. Obey the Lord (James 4:17; Rom 12:1-2)**
- 3. Experience the Lord (Ps 25:14)**

Honoring to the Lord in all areas of life. (10)

God sees everything we do.
The hardest step of faith is the next one.
Don't be a secret service Christian, but one everybody knows.

Strengthened with God's power to endure and suffer. (11a)

We are strengthened according to His power; not out of His power
Purpose of power is not merely for spiritual gifts, but for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience
It's power to remain where you are as long as God wants you to

Joyful, thankful and mindful of the Gospel. (11b-14)

Where do you find that joy? In the Gospel! Thanks be to the Father!
Paul was rejoicing while in prison; he had joy regardless of circumstances (Phil 4:4)
Your time here is short vs. eternity; your future inheritance is one no one can take away

Questions for Discussion:

What sorts of things do we often pray for when we pray for each other?
How would you say these things compare and contrast with what Paul prayed for the Colossians?

What sorts of things control many people today?
What insights can we glean from this as to what it means for us to be controlled by God's desires and directions for us?

What has been your biggest step of faith thus far?
Is God calling you to take another step of faith right now? If so, what is it?
(Have the group take a moment to pray for you concerning it)

Are you going through difficult times right now? If so, how can your group pray for you?
Are you experiencing joy in the midst of the difficult times? How can Paul's example encourage you?

Have you been baptized following your salvation? If not why not? (Next baptism is October 19-20)