

How God Grows His People: A 5-Day Devotional from Colossians 1:9–11

Day 1 — Filled With the Knowledge of His Will

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:9, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 1:17–18, Psalm 119:105

Devotional:

Most of us want to grow spiritually, but we’re often unsure where growth actually begins. We assume it starts with more discipline, better habits, or stronger resolve. Paul points us somewhere else. He prays that believers would be *filled with the knowledge of God’s will*.

That word “filled” matters. Paul isn’t asking God to sprinkle in a little insight. He’s praying for a life governed, shaped, and directed by God’s revealed will. Not secret knowledge. Not insider information. Just truth—clearly revealed in God’s Word and illuminated by the Spirit.

This matters because spiritual growth doesn’t start with doing more; it starts with seeing clearly. Romans 12:2 reminds us that transformation comes through the renewal of the mind. Until the mind is shaped by truth, obedience becomes either exhausting or shallow. We may stay busy, but we won’t grow deep.

God’s will is not hidden in the clouds. He has revealed it. Scripture shows us who God is, what He has done in Christ, and how His redeemed people are meant to live. When Paul prays for knowledge, he’s praying that believers would increasingly see life, suffering, obedience, and hope through God’s lens—not their own instincts.

This kind of knowledge doesn’t puff us up. It steadies us. It anchors us. It frees us from chasing the latest spiritual trend or comparing ourselves to other Christians. Growth begins when truth shapes the way we think about God and ourselves.

If you feel stuck spiritually, don’t start by asking what you need to *do*. Start by asking what God is teaching you about Himself. Growth flows from there.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you usually look for direction when you feel spiritually stuck?
2. How has God’s Word shaped the way you think about your life right now?
3. What might it look like to let Scripture, not circumstance, guide your thinking?

Practical Application:

Set aside intentional time today to read Scripture slowly. Ask God not just for information, but for understanding that reshapes how you see Him and your life.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that You have not hidden Your will from us. Fill my mind with truth that comes from Your Word and by Your Spirit. Shape the way I think so my life reflects what pleases You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2 — A Walk Worthy of the Lord

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:10a, Philippians 1:27, Ephesians 4:1, Micah 6:8

Devotional:

When Paul prays that believers would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, he's not talking about earning God's approval. Scripture is clear—we are saved by grace alone. "Worthy" doesn't mean deserving. It means fitting.

A worthy walk is a life that matches the gospel we claim to believe. Grace changes us, and changed people begin to live differently—not perfectly, but directionally. Our walk reflects who we belong to.

Paul connects knowledge to conduct. What we believe about God inevitably shapes how we live before Him. When truth settles into the heart, it doesn't stay theoretical. It shows up in our choices, relationships, priorities, and responses under pressure.

Notice the phrase "*fully pleasing to Him.*" That shifts the focus of the Christian life. Growth isn't measured by how impressive we look or how comfortable we feel, but by whether our lives are oriented toward pleasing the Lord. That's deeply relational. You learn what pleases someone when you care about the relationship.

This also frees us. When pleasing God becomes the goal, we're released from living for approval —our own or others'. We're no longer driven by performance, comparison, or fear. We're shaped by love and gratitude.

A worthy walk isn't flashy. It's faithful. It's obedience in ordinary moments. It's choosing integrity when no one sees. It's humility, repentance, and perseverance shaped by grace.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does "a worthy walk" mean to you in everyday life?
2. Where are you tempted to measure your spiritual life by appearance rather than faithfulness?
3. How does knowing God's grace free you to live for His pleasure?

Practical Application:

Identify one area of your life today—work, family, speech, or decisions—and ask, "What would please the Lord here?" Then walk accordingly.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for saving me by grace. Teach me to live in a way that reflects Your goodness and honors Your name. Shape my life so it fits the gospel I believe. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 3 — A Fruitful and Growing Life

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:10b–c, John 15:4–5, Galatians 5:22–23, Psalm 1:1–3

Devotional:

Paul describes a life shaped by God's truth as one that bears fruit and continues to grow in the knowledge of God. These two always belong together. Fruitfulness and growth feed one another.

Fruit is not something we manufacture; it's something that emerges from life. Jesus says plainly, "Apart from Me you can do nothing." When we abide in Christ—trusting Him, relying on Him, drawing life from Him—fruit appears. Not instantly. Not evenly. But inevitably.

Paul reminds us that good works are not the cause of our salvation, but the result of it. God produces fruit in His people as they live in union with Christ. This fruit shows up in love, patience, faithfulness, self-control, and good works prepared by God Himself.

What's interesting is that fruit-bearing leads to deeper knowledge of God. As we walk in obedience, we come to know God more intimately. We see His faithfulness in real time. We experience His wisdom in practice, not just in theory.

This is why growth is often slower than we want. God isn't just giving us answers; He's shaping us through lived dependence. He grows us through obedience, repentance, and repeated trust.

If you feel frustrated by slow progress, remember this: growth is not linear, but it is real. God is far more committed to your maturity than you are.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you see evidence of fruit in your life—even small signs?
2. How has obedience helped you know God more deeply?
3. What expectations might you need to release about the pace of your growth?

Practical Application:

Thank God today for evidence of fruit in your life, even if it feels small. Ask Him to help you remain connected to Christ, the true source of growth.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that growth comes from You. Help me abide in Christ, trusting that You are at work even when progress feels slow. Bear fruit in my life for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4 — Strengthened With Divine Power

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:11a, Ephesians 1:19–20, Isaiah 40:29–31, 2 Corinthians 12:9

Devotional:

Paul knows that everything he has prayed for requires power beyond human strength. That's why he prays that believers would be *strengthened with all power, according to God's glorious might.*

This strengthening is not a one-time boost. It's ongoing. God doesn't save us and then leave us to figure out growth on our own. He supplies strength day by day, moment by moment, through His Spirit.

The power available to believers is resurrection power—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. That doesn't mean the Christian life becomes easy. It means it becomes sustained. God's power meets us in weakness, not self-sufficiency.

Many of us burn out because we try to live the Christian life on our own energy. We depend on discipline, routine, or willpower. Those things have their place, but they were never meant to replace dependence on God.

Paul learned this firsthand. When he begged God to remove his weakness, God answered, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Growth often deepens not when we feel strong, but when we finally stop pretending we are.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where are you relying on your own strength instead of God's?
2. How do you typically respond to weakness or limitation?
3. What would it look like to depend on God's power today?

Practical Application:

Begin today by acknowledging your weakness to God. Ask Him to strengthen you with His power, not for ease, but for faithfulness.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that Your power meets me in my weakness. Teach me to rely on You rather than myself. Strengthen me according to Your glorious might. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5 — Joyful Endurance in Christ

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:11b, Romans 5:3–5, James 1:2–4, Philippians 1:6

Devotional:

Paul ends his prayer with a surprising goal: endurance and patience *with joy*. Not gritted teeth. Not emotional numbness. Joy rooted in confidence that God is at work.

Endurance is about bearing up under difficult circumstances. Patience is about long-suffering with difficult people. Both are necessary for a faithful Christian life, and neither comes naturally.

Joy doesn't mean suffering feels good. It means suffering doesn't get the final word. Joy flows from knowing who holds the future and who is shaping us through present trials.

Paul doesn't promise that hardship will disappear. He promises that God will supply what's needed to remain faithful within it. That's why endurance is tied to power. God strengthens His people not just to start well, but to finish well.

And here's the assurance that steadies us: the God who began a good work in you will bring it to completion. Growth is not fragile because it depends on God, not you.

When you're tired, discouraged, or tempted to quit, remember this: endurance is not proof of your strength—it's evidence of God's sustaining grace.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you need endurance or patience right now?
2. What makes joy difficult in this season?
3. How does God's promise to complete His work encourage you?

Practical Application:

Choose one ongoing challenge today and entrust it to God. Ask Him not for escape, but for faithful endurance with joy.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for sustaining me through every season. Give me endurance in hardship and patience with people. Fill my heart with joy rooted in Your promises. In Jesus' name, Amen.