

Staying in Process with God

Colossians 1:9-14

And we . . . are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (New International Version)

Colossians 1:9-14 describes **five key behaviors** that will keep believers in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus.

- **KNOW AND ACT UPON GOD'S WORD.**

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding . . . ¹⁰ . . . growing in the knowledge of God, Colossians 1:9-10 (NIV)

Fill = completely filled Knowledge = epignosis = thorough knowledge
(See 1 Corinthians 1:5; Ephesians 1:17; Philippians 1:9; Colossians 3:10)

Two Practical Actions

- Regularly read and study the Scriptures and apply them to your life.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply what you read.

. . . God has revealed it [spiritual truths] to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10 (NIV)

- **KEEP YOUR HEART MOTIVATION PURE AS YOU DO THE RIGHT THING.**

. . . asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will . . . ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him . . .
Colossians 1:9b-10a (English Standard Version)

Walk = a believer's pattern of daily conduct
(See Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 13:13; Ephesians 2:10; 4:17-32; 5:2, 8, 15; 3 John 3-4)

Right intention = the choice to do the right thing
Pure intention = the heart to do the right thing

So then, dear friends, as you always obeyed me when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey me now while I am away from you. Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation, ¹³because God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose.
Philippians 2:12-13 (Good News Translation)

- **DO GOOD WORKS.**

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work . . . Colossians 1:10 (NIV)

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. John 15:8 (English Standard Version)

Good work = using your gifts to meet needs out of love for God

- **DEPEND ON GOD AND REFUSE TO GIVE UP.**

. . . being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience . . . Colossians 1:11 (NIV)

" . . . strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man." (Ephesians 3:16)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 (NIV)

- **GIVE THANKS THROUGH THE PROCESS.**

. . . and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:11-12 (NIV)