

“The Spiritual Growth Cycle”

Colossians 1:1–12

Intro Scripture:

Colossians 1:1–12 — ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

I. The importance of caring for the growth of other believers.

A. What activity were Paul and his partners involved in for the those at Colossae? (v3)

³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

1. **Answer:** Paul _____.

B. What two spiritual attributes did Paul notice about them as new believers? (v4)

1. They had faith and love for all the saints. _____

2. Faith in who? _____. Love for who? _____

C. Paul explains how truth produces love in the life of the believer:

⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;

Verse 5:

1. What attribute is currently working in their life? _____

2. What is causing this attribute grow? _____

Verse 6:

3. How is the truth of the Gospel at work in believers? _____

4. Beside hearing the gospel what crucial step is needed for it to transform a person? _____

D. What was the instrument that God used to bring saving truth to them? (v7)

⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

1. **Answer:** _____

2. Would you be willing for God to prepare you to share Christ with the lost? _____

II. Paul's prayer for the Colossians reveals the cycle for spiritual growth:

A. What did the Apostle pray for one who has already come to faith?

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light."

1. -v9 To be filled with _____.
2. -v10 To walk in a manner _____. (How? _____)
3. -v10b To bear fruit in _____.
4. -v10c To increase in _____.
5. -v11 To be strengthened with _____.
6. -v11b For the attaining of _____.
7. -v12 So that we would _____.