

Who Wrote This?

Col 1:1 NIV **Paul**, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God**, and **Timothy our brother**,

- What a great place to be in - **to say with such certainty - "I'm doing the will of God"**

How Can I Know The Will of God?

1. **Convinced that God has a purpose** and calling for our lives - before in the womb Jer 1:5
 - a. WHY DID HE CREATE ME VS WHAT DO I WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE
2. **A heart that is yielded to His will** - Paul asked What will you have me do LORD? Acts 9:6
 - a. THE REAL ISSUE IS WILL WE DO IT WHEN WE KNOW IT - Adam and Eve
 - b. Jesus said my food is to the will of him who sent me (john 4:34)
3. **Inner promptings** of God's Spirit
 - a. Phil 2:13 - works in us to will and do HIS GOOD pleasure
4. **Based on the gifts** and talents he has given us
 - a. 1Pe 4:10 NIV Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
5. Let the **peace of God rule** [act as umpire] in your life Col 3:15-17
6. Let the **word of Christ dwell in you** richly Col 3:15-17 (it is a lamp to our feet - Ps 119:105)
7. **Do whatever is in front of you** - Whatever you do do as to the LORD Col 3:15-17
8. **Counsel from others** - Prov 11:14 in the multitude of counselors there is safety
9. **Ask God for wisdom** Jas1:5
10. **Pray in the spirit**
 - a. Rom 8:26-27 NIV In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. **We do not know what we ought to pray for**, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Who Was It Written To?

vs 2 To God's **holy people** in Colossae, the **faithful brothers and sisters** in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

1) They are GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE (this is what God makes them) - a.k.a. SAINTS

- 1Co 1:30 NIV It is because of him that you are in **Christ Jesus, who has become** for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, **holiness** and redemption.

2) They are FAITHFUL BROTHERS - (This is THEIR contribution)

- 1Sa 2:35 NIV I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will **do according to what is in my heart and mind...**

3) They are people who have been TRANSFORMED by the power of the gospel

vs 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *when we pray for you*, (4) because we have *heard of your faith* in Christ Jesus *and of the love you have* for all God's people--

The change in their lives was evident - (eternal values - Faith Hope and Love 1 Cor 13:13)

- People talked about their **faith in Christ Jesus**
 - their belief system and reliance moved to Jesus
- People talked about the **love they have for all God's people**
 - their selfish live was overcome by the love of God

These are two marks of a growing Christian - see a similar scripture to Thessalonians

- 2Th 1:3-4 NIV We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because **your faith is growing more and more**, and **the love all of you have for one another is increasing**. 4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

What moved them to a life of faith and love?

Col 1:5-8 ***the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven*** and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel (6) that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world--just as it has been doing among you ***since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace***. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

1) Because they HEARD and TRULY UNDERSTOOD God's grace (vs 6)

- Rom 10:14 NIV How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And ***how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?*** And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
- Act 8:30-31 NIV Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. (31) ***"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"*** So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

2) Because someone - a FAITHFUL brother EPAPHRAS told them (vs 7)

- This is how the truth is spread from person to person...it is how the truth has been heard in all the world and how it is bearing fruit in all the world - it is a person to person transaction

3) Because they have a HOPE in HEAVEN (vs 5) - HUGE INFLUENCE IN OUR LIFE

- **It lifts us up above the suffering of this life**
 - If in this life only we have hope we are to be pitied above all men (1 Cor 15:19)
- **It puts eternal perspective on our finances**

- Mat 6:20 NIV But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
- **Hope for our loved ones who have died in the LORD**
 - 1Th 4:13-14 NIV Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.
- **Hope of eternal life - we don't have to wonder**
 - Tit 1:2-3 NIV in the hope of eternal life, which **God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, 3** and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,
 - **He has set eternity in our hearts** [Ecc 3:11] - and this message of Jesus Christ is the one that syncs with what is the yearning in our hearts - to live forever - He is the only one who has overcome death - he is the one that will raise us to life

HOPE OF HEAVEN NOT ONLY PROMISES ETERNAL LIFE, BUT INFLUENCES MY LIFE NOW - my priorities, my relationships, my commitments, my finances, my fears

Prayer NOT ONLY FOR PEOPLE TO BE SAVED - But Afterwards as well

(v3) We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **when we pray for you**

Col 1:9-12 ESV And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking ***that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*** 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 11 **May you be strengthened with all power,** according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

How To Pray for Others

May you be filled with the knowledge of his will

- This leads to a to walk **-in a manner worthy** of the LORD
- The worthy walk **pleases** the LORD
- This leads to **bearing fruit**
- This leads to increasing in the **knowledge of God**

May you be strengthened with power

- His power enables **endurance with patience and joy**
- His power supplies us with a **grateful heart to give thanks** to God the Father
- His power puts life into perspective - **I have hope - of an inheritance**