

**Colossians - Chapter 1**  
**“God’s Power at Work in the Believer”**  
**Colossians 1:11-14**

**Verse 11**

1. Paul prayed that these believers would be “*strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power.*”
2. Ephesians 3:16 says, “*strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.*”
3. Notice that we are strengthened by **His** power from **within**. Many times, we try to pray **in** more power. But, the power works from within us, and then through us. vs. 29
4. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, His power begins to work in us and through us. If you are saved, you already possess Christ's power within. vs. 27
  - The word “*might*” is from a Greek word from which we derive the word “dynamite.”
  - The same power and might that raised Christ from the dead now lives and abides in us. We have the dynamite of His Spirit within us.
5. As Christ's power works in and through us, it is revealed in our attitudes and actions.

***Notice, in this verse, what His power produces:***

**His power produces patience.**

- The word “*patience*” means “endurance when circumstances are difficult.”
- So, biblical patience is not the Christian sitting in a rocking chair, waiting for God to do something. It carries the idea of the soldier on the battlefield who keeps on fighting, even when the going gets tough. It is the runner on the race track who refuses to stop, because he wants to win the race.
- Too many believers want to quit when circumstances become difficult. This is when we need to be strengthened with all might in the inner man by His Spirit. When we do this, we endure patiently instead of quitting.

**His power produces longsuffering.**

- Patience has more to do with circumstances, but longsuffering has more to do with people. It is the opposite of revenge.
- Isn't it amazing how we can endure adverse circumstances better than we can endure people? We can endure sickness, financial problems, or car problems, but then rip the heads off of our loved ones for the smallest thing, and snap at them.
- We need to be strengthened by His Spirit in the inner man.

### **His power produces joy.**

- There is such a thing as a patience that **endures**, but does not **enjoy**. We are going to “endure our afflictions for Jesus,” but make everybody around us miserable while we do it. Paul's prayer was that these believers could have a joyful patience.
- Is it possible to have joy even when you're enduring adverse circumstances? Sure it is, but it is not something we work up on the outside.
- It only comes as we are strengthened by His Spirit in our inner man. It is supernatural. 2 Corinthians 7:4; Galatians 5:22; 1 Thessalonians 1:6

### **Verse 12**

1. As God's Spirit strengthens you from within, you will find yourself being overwhelmed with gratitude. Shallow believers are only thankful when circumstances are good and to their liking.
2. But, mature believers who are controlled by God's Spirit are thankful (all the time) for the glorious position that they now have in Christ.
3. We who were once enemies of God and alienated from God (vs. 21) have now been brought into the family of God, and have obtained an eternal inheritance.
4. God has made us meet (qualified) to be partakers (sharers) of the inheritance of the saints in light (as opposed to eternal darkness in the lake of fire).
5. It is actually **Christ's** rightful inheritance, but because we are in Christ (of His body, flesh, and bones), we have been made partakers of this inheritance through Him (Ephesians 1:11, 18). We share in it.
6. At your salvation, God gave you the Holy Spirit as the earnest (the security or down payment) of your inheritance. Ephesians 1:14
7. Think about this: we (pagan, heathen, Gentile, sinners) will share in the eternal inheritance of Jesus Christ! No wonder Paul said, “*Giving thanks...*”

### **Verse 13-14**

#### ***Introduction to these verses:***

- This section of Scripture (vs. 13-22) is one of the greatest in the Bible concerning the subject of Jesus Christ.
- False teachers had crept into the church at Colosse and were seeking to lead these believers astray. They were seeking to lead them away from a faith in the total sufficiency of Jesus Christ. 2:8-10
- This is always a mark of false teachers and religious systems. They may give Christ **prominence**, but they will not give Him the **preeminence** that He deserves. vs. 18
- In these two verses, Paul makes it very clear that there is only one answer for the sin problem that plagues every man and woman. We need salvation and forgiveness outside of ourselves. We need a Savior. Christ alone is that Savior.

*There are four wonderful blessings that we see in these verses that Christ has provided for the salvation of sinners:*

1. **Christ has delivered us. vs. 13a**

- The word “*delivered*” means “to rescue from danger.”
- Christ has delivered us from the power of darkness. This speaks of Satan's kingdom and authority. Satan's kingdom is one of darkness which leads people to eternal darkness in the lake of fire. Those who are unsaved are part of this kingdom.
- Christ is the only way by which a sinner can be loosed and delivered from Satan's kingdom of darkness.
- For three hours, darkness covered the land when Christ was crucified. There, He suffered through the pain and darkness that you and I deserve as sinners.
- On that cross was the Light of the world, hanging in darkness, becoming sin for us. Then, they took His body down and placed Him in a cold, dark tomb.
- But, three days later, the stone was rolled away, light entered into the tomb, and the Light of the world came forth **out** of the tomb. The darkness of death was defeated. The only way to defeat it (and Satan) was to die and then conquer and overcome it. Hebrews 2:14
- Now Christ offers light to anybody who will come to Him in faith. The moment a person trusts Christ, he is delivered out of Satan's kingdom of darkness and is made part of Christ's kingdom of light. Ephesians 5:8

2. **Christ has translated us. vs. 13b**

- Christ has delivered us out of one kingdom and translated us into another. We have been translated into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Isn't this wonderful? He immediately changed our citizenship into another kingdom.
- The word “*kingdom*” speaks of royalty that is ruling, and it speaks of the realm in which that royalty is ruling. Christ's royal kingdom will encompass both the heaven and the earth (vs. 16). He is the Creator and rightful heir of both.
- Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). We will occupy and reign in the heavenly portion of Christ's kingdom and inheritance. But, here is the beauty of it: we have already been translated into this kingdom and seated in heavenly places. Ephesians 2:6
- It is a done deal. We are not **waiting** to become part of Christ's kingdom; we are **now** members of Christ's kingdom. It is a present reality! And it is all because of Jesus!

3. **Christ has redeemed us. vs. 14a**

- The word “redeemed” carries the idea of paying a ransom to release a prisoner.
- We were prisoners to our own sin. The payment we owed was death. Jesus Christ paid the price to deliver us and set us free. The ransom was paid in full.

- We are redeemed and set free through His blood. The blood He shed is sufficient. It is not His blood **plus** some religious deeds or works on my part. Like the old hymn says, “What can wash away my sin? **Nothing** but the blood of Jesus.”
- Sin, death, and eternal damnation had us in their grip, but Christ paid the ransom and set us free. We have been redeemed.
- Satan will try to convince us otherwise and attempt to bring us back into his bondage and his authority, but we must remember that Christ has set us free. We have the victory, and we are more than conquerors through Christ.

4. **Christ has forgiven us. vs. 14b**

- What a sweet word—forgiven! The moment a sinner believes that what Christ did was enough, and simply trusts Christ to save him, immediately every sin is completely and totally forgiven. We receive a full pardon.
- The word “forgiven” means “to send away; to cancel a debt.” Christ not only redeemed us from the slave market of sin, He canceled every debt so we could never be enslaved again.
- Forgiveness is an act of God's grace that is legally just and righteous, based on Christ's work for sinners. We don't **deserve** forgiveness and we cannot **earn** forgiveness. Forgiveness is based on the merits of Christ alone.
- God does not arbitrarily or sentimentally forgive sins. It isn't the idea of God saying, “Well, I feel sorry for them, so I think I will forgive them,” or “They sure have been trying hard to change, so I'll forgive them.”
- Forgiveness is rooted in and based on the complete work of redemption that Christ accomplished on the cross. It is the only way that God can legally and morally forgive sins.