We May Be Praying Wrong 16/17 May 2026

Colossians 1:9-14 Pr Ann Wan Kuan

- The Cosmic Vending Machine
  - Insert prayer
  - Select blessing
  - Receive immediate result
- Paul prays differently
  - Most of us pray for – _____ first
  - Paul prays for – _____ first
- Prayer from prison
  - He does not ask God to make life _____.
  - He does not ask God to remove every _____.
  - He does not ask God to fix all their _____.
- He asks God to **fill their** _____.
  - Prayer is not first about asking God to remove difficulty.
  - Prayer is about allowing God to _____ us in the midst of difficulty.

3 ways we may have been praying wrong:

1. **About _____ (v9b-11)**
   - Paul prays hardest when things go well.
     - "Because they are thriving, I have *not stopped* praying."
   - "Storm the throne of grace and persevere there, and mercy will come down." - John Wesley
   - Some of the hardest prayers are not prayed through suffering but through _____.
   - Praying for the unreached people group.

2. **About _____**
   - **God wants to change you more than your _____. (v9b)**

Knowledge	= Epignōsis	= full knowledge	I_____	W____
Understanding	= Sunesis	= understanding	S_____	W____
Wisdom	= Sophia	= intelligence/skill	A_____	H_____

   - **God wants your life to match your _____. (v10)**
     - Axios (worthy) - Weight that matches the value placed on the other side of the scale.
     - It means a life whose daily reality corresponds to the weight of what you claim to believe.
   - And what does this coherent, worthy life look like in practice?
     - When your private life matches your public worship.
     - When your character reflects Christ, even when nobody is watching.
     - Your workplace integrity matches your Sunday songs.
     - Your family sees Jesus in the way you speak, forgive, and serve.
     - etc ...
   - **God wants to _____ you, not just rescue you. (v11)**

- Hupomonē (Endurance) - Endurance for difficult situations, perseverance through long hardship.
- Makrothumia (Patience) - Patience for difficult people, long-suffering with those who wound us.

3. About _____ (v12-14)

- Q_____ - You have been made worthy — not by effort, but by grace.
- R_____ - You were not just struggling. You were captive. He came for you.
- T_____ - You have been relocated — from darkness into His glorious kingdom.
- You are already loved. Already forgiven. Already welcomed home.
- Because Jesus taught us to pray: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done."
- Prayer is not getting God to align with our desires — it is aligning our lives with His.

Conclusion

- Pray with _____ - Do not stop. God is still worthy — even before the breakthrough comes.
- Pray for _____ - Before you ask God to change your circumstances, ask Him to transform your heart.
- Pray from _____ - Remember who you already are in Christ — qualified, rescued, transferred, redeemed.

"Lord… I Can't Do This."

Not: Will you _____?

But: Will you _____?