



How to Evaluate a Church and Pray for It Colossians 1:3-14

Celebrate _____ things when you find them in a church.

Colossians 1:3-8, “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus and of the **love** you have for all God’s people— ⁵the 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 ⁶that 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. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.”

Thank God for f _____ when you see it.

Thank God for l _____ when you see it.

Thank God for h _____ when you see it.

Ask God to develop _____ things in your church family.

Colossians 1:9-10, “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰**so that** you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way....”

F _____ **in good works.**

Colossians 1:10, "... bearing fruit in every good work ..."

I _____ **with God.**

Colossians 1:10, "... growing in the knowledge of God ..."

R _____ **in hard times.**

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

E _____ **in salvation.**

Colossians 1:12-14, "... giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

TAKE FIVE minutes for five days to pray for others. Before you pray, read over your sermon notes from Sunday and align your prayers with the text we studied.

Monday. In Colossians 1:3-8, what are the three things Paul thanked God for when he saw them in the Colossian church (verses 3-5)? Think about the ways these three things are on display among your fellow church members and thank God for this evidence of his grace.

Tuesday. In Colossians 1:9-14, Paul showed us how to pray for the progress of four things in fellow believers. Today, pray the first request to see fellow believers "bearing fruit in every good work."

Wednesday. In Colossians 1:9-14, Paul showed us how to pray for the progress of four things in fellow believers. Today, pray the second request to see fellow believers "growing in the knowledge of God."

Thursday. In Colossians 1:9-14, Paul showed us how to pray for the progress of four things in fellow believers. Today, pray the third request to see fellow believers "strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience."

Friday. In Colossians 1:9-14, Paul showed us how to pray for the progress of four things in fellow believers. Today, pray the fourth request to see fellow believers "giving joyful thanks to the Father."