A Prayer for Spiritual Strength
Colossians 1:9-12

Introduction:
A. Church may be hindered for lack of prayer. (Jas. 4:2,3)
B. Church prospered in first century - they prayed for each other.
   1. Apostles prayed for brethren. (Col. 1:9; 2 Thess. 1:11)
   2. Apostles wanted to be prayed for. (2 Thess. 3:1)
C. Church would be stronger if we imitated Paul's prayer for Colossians:
   He prayer for them to be stronger in three areas:

Discussion:

I. Stronger In Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding That We Have. (v. 9,10).
A. Need wisdom enough to understand value of spiritual knowledge.
   (Phil. 3:8; Hos. 6:6; 2 Pet. 2:20; Rom. 10:1-4)
B. Need wisdom enough to understand source of spiritual knowledge.
   (Col. 2:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:7)
C. Need wisdom enough to understand abuse of knowledge.(1 Cor 8:1 ff.)

II. Stronger In Walk and Work That We Do.
A. So as to be worthy of the Lord. (vs. 10)
B. So as to please God, not man. (v. 10, cf. Gal. 1:10)
C. So as to be fruitful in every good work. (v. 10)
   1. To be fruitful good works must abound. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 1:8).
   2. To be fruitful good works must be lawful. (Matt. 7:21ff; 2 Tim. 3:16,17)
   3. To be fruitful good works must be done lawfully.
      a. Preaching good - not for women.
      b. Foot & hand washing good - not as worship.(1 Cor 15:9;1 Tm. 5)
      c. Social activities good - not for church. (1 Cor. 11:22,34).

III. Stronger In Attitude and Disposition. (v. 11)
A. In Patience - Not easily discouraged.
B. In Longsuffering - God perfect example. (Rom. 2:4-11; 2 Pet. 3:9ff)
C. In Joyfulness (cf. Phil. 4:4,11-13; Psa. 51:12)
   2. Joy does not prove salvation - but is fruit of it. (2 Thess. 2:11,12)

Conclusion:
1. Let us pray that we and our brethren be stronger in these areas.
2. Let us pray, let us work for these things. (cf. Mt. 6:11; 2 Thess. 3:10)
3. Let us pray for the salvation of others. (Rom. 10:1); but one must obey!