

Cleaning Fish #2

Pray: Thank the Lord for those who are becoming His.

Read: Colossians 1:9-12; 1 John 1:9

A PRAYER LIFE

Regular prayer for the new believer is extremely important. It is also very effective to pray with a person who is learning to walk with God. Your presence and prayer will do much to strengthen the new Christian. Eventually, you should teach him to develop his own prayer life. You can also share your own prayer life practices with the new disciple. In order to do this, you may need to sharpen your own prayer life. Discover how to teach others to pray

OBSERVE Paul's prayer for his disciples in Colossians 1:9-12.

1. What indicates that Paul kept praying for these people (v.9b)?

Usually when we pray, we ask God to solve our personal problems. Paul shows us that we should also pray that other believers would increase in the knowledge of God and the fruits of the Spirit.

2. List the two requests Paul made for the new converts (Vv.9, 10)?

3. List the characteristics of the worthy walk for which Paul prayed (Vv. 10-12)

OBSERVE John's instruction on prayer for cleansing in 1 John 1:9. The new believer needs to be taught how to deal with sin and failure after receiving Christ. He does not need to receive Christ all over again. He simply needs to confess any new sins he has committed since receiving Christ. He is not on probation. When a sinner receives Christ, he is given salvation. Therefore, he needs only to confess new sins.

4. What is the promise God makes to those who confess their sins (v.9)?

5. What must a person do in order to be forgiven (v. 9a)?

6. What are the pitfalls of denying sin within us?

The word 'confess' is *homologeo*. It means to do an about face concerning a sinful act: to recognise it as sin, and to acknowledge it as sin to God. When we acknowledge our sins for what they are God is able to act in us. He not only forgives us but He keeps on cleansing us from our sin.

When you disciple new Christians it is important to often ask them if they have anything they need to get off their chest. If they have, listen to their confession then point them to God who is only one who can forgive their sin, encourage them to this straightaway. In this way you help form a godly habit in their lives.

Pray together; ask the Lord to help you all too always remember to pray for and with those who need your help, and teach them how to pray also.