
“What If God Answered”

Colossians 4:12-18 ESV

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. 13For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. 14Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. 15Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17And say to Archippus: See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord. 18I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Colossians 4:12-18 ESV

1) We struggle with many things – Let’s wrestle in prayer

- **Jesus is the example of one who agonized in prayer.**

“Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives, 40There He told them: Pray that you will not give in to temptation. 41He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed: 42Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine. 43Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened Him. 44He prayed more fervently, and He was in such agony of spirit that His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. 45At last He stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief. 46Why are you sleeping? He asked them: Get up and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation”. Luke 22:39-46 NLT

a) To stand mature in Christ

11Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ . 14Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16He makes the whole body fit together

perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:11-16 NLT

b) To be fully assured in Christ vs 12b

“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.”
Romans 8:26-27 NLT

c) To be knowing and doing the will of God vs 12c

“...that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

What if God Answered... how different would our lives look today?