

TAKE FOUR GIANT STEPS

Colossians 1:9-14

Introduction: There have been times in our country and other places of the world when it has been necessary to find work for many so they could earn a living. Many times roads were built and sometimes they didn't lead anywhere, but this enabled some to live. (WPA, CC Camps).

The Colossian Church was beginning to feel it was on a road leading to nowhere so Paul wrote this letter telling them that there were four giant steps he wanted them to take. Perhaps you might be feeling like this church. Maybe your life is at a standstill, maybe you seem to be in a "rut." Let's take a look at these four giant steps Paul writes of.

I. THE FIRST STEP TO TAKE IS SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT (v9)

1. Our ordinary, average, human knowledge is just not enough to handle life - especially the Christian life.
2. Christians need to pray for a knowledge that comes only from God. (Spiritual insight, God's Will)
3. Knowing God's will results in wisdom and understanding.
 - Wisdom means to see from God's viewpoint.
 - Understanding means to live according to God's standards.
4. In our fast moving, shaky society, we need spiritual enlightenment of God's will.
5. We need to take one giant step called "spiritual enlightenment."

II. THE SECOND STEP TO TAKE IS A WORTHY WALK (v10)

1. The first step results in "holy living."
2. Now the second step reflects the first step and one becomes a transformed person - different.
3. Paul's prayer was that the Colossians live a life worthy of the Lord.
4. To please Jesus Christ causes one to walk a worthy walk.
5. Therefore take the second giant step and walk worthy of your calling.

III. THE THIRD STEP IS DIVINE STRENGTH (v11)

1. To live a Christian life in this world requires something which we were not born with - a super human strength.
2. That super human strength comes only from God and no where else.
3. Divine strength brings patience, song suffering and joy.

4. Therefore take the third giant step and that is the step of divine strength.

IV. THE FOURTH STEP IS THE STEP OF GRATITUDE (vv12-14)

1. God constantly blesses His people. The Colossians were admonished by Paul to respond to those blessings.

2. We also can respond. We can be grateful for our glorious inheritance - our deliverance from an evil world - our citizenship in God's Kingdom - and our forgiveness of sin.

3. God's action and attitude toward us is that of GRACE and our response to Him in our thoughts and words should be gratitude.

4. Therefore take the fourth and final step, the step of gratitude.

CONCLUSION:

1. These four steps are essential for one's Christian life to progress. They are indeed giant steps for most of us Christians. Let us therefore "gird up our loins" and take that first giant step.

2. Again the four giant steps are:

- Spiritual Enlightenment
- Worthy Walk
- Divine Strength
- Gratitude

3. Christian, let's take these steps that will enable us to be more like what God wants us to be like.