

THREE ESSENTIALS CHRISTIANS NEED

Colossians 1:9-11

Introduction: Three essentials to human life are water, food and air. Without these a person cannot live for very long. Without air, just two or three minutes, without food and water, a matter of days, perhaps a couple of weeks, but eventually the human body will die. As the human body needs these three elements, there are also three essentials to living the Christian life. Without either of these three one's life as a Christian is far from how it could be and should be. Paul tells us about the three essentials that Christians need.

I. ESSENTIAL NUMBER ONE IS TO KNOW GOD'S WILL (v9)

1. Christians need to be filled with the knowledge of God's will.
 - For one's entire life.
 - Every moment, every word, every thought needs to be what God wants.
 - One's behavior and conduct needs to be that which reflects the Lord.
2. Knowing God's will comes from prayer and studying God's Word.
 - Learning God's will until it saturates one's total being.
 - Becoming so familiar with God's will that it automatically controls one's life.
3. So many Christians live shallow, defeated lives instead of the bubbling, abundant life they could have.
 - Most Christians do not know very much about God's will for their lives.
 - Sadly, many Christians don't want God to be very involved in their lives.

II. ESSENTIAL NUMBER TWO IS TO WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD JESUS (v10)

1. Knowing, possessing the will and wisdom of God is one thing, called "head" knowledge.
2. Knowing the will of God must be put into practice. The will of God must be lived out in one's life.
3. To walk worthy of the Lord Jesus one must:
 - be fruitful, productive in every good work, not just in a particular area that is easy to do.
 - it is in all that God wants a person to do and say.
 - grow in knowledge of the Lord. It is not a "once for all" kind of thing.
 - Nothing is learned all at once, all comes in stages, degrees, so it is with God's will.
 - constantly be receptive for changes or new things God has for one to do or be.

III. ESSENTIAL NUMBER THREE IS TO HAVE GOD'S POWER (v11)

1. It is one thing to know God's will but being able to do it, having the power is another thing.
2. How does a person walk worthy of the Lord Jesus if one doesn't have the power of God to do so?

3. Who has such power of his/her own? It is not humanly possible to walk worthy of Jesus.
 - Who is perfect?
 - Who can conquer death?
 - Who can endure and hold up under all that Satan brings upon those who belong to Jesus?
 - No person can win over Satan.

4. Only the power of God can enable a person to walk worthy of the Lord Jesus and defeat Satan.
 - God's power can enable a person to be what God wants that person to be.
 - God's power can conquer death and give eternal life to a person.
 - God's power can give strength, enabling a person to endure what Satan brings.
 - God's power can enable a person to remain joyful in all difficult things.
 - God's power can give a person understanding and peace, no matter what.
 - God's power can strengthen and settle a person when all seems lost.
 - God's power can give a person hope and security.

5. So, how does one get such power from God?
 - By being baptized?
 - By belonging to a particular Church?
 - By ceremonies and rituals?
 - By someone laying hands on a person?
 - The power of God comes **ONLY** through PRAYER, much prayer.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Christian must know God's will to be the kind of Christian he/she ought to be.
2. The Christian must walk worthy of the Lord Jesus to be the right example to others.
3. Only by the power of God which is given through prayer can the Christian ever expect to be all that God expects him/her to be.
4. The Christian having these three essentials in his/her life will have a spirit of patience, endurance, steadfastness, consistency, longsuffering and joyfulness no matter what life brings.
5. Three essentials Christians need to be what and all God wants. Do you have them?