



# Daily Quiet Time Guide

## Colossians, Week 1

### Devotional Adapted From: Unrivaled



#### HOW TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME

The QT Guide is designed to help you MOVE with God through Bible Reading, reflection and prayer. It can be completed in about 7 minutes.

**½ Minute Preparing Your Heart:** Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, “Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time.

**4 Minutes Listening To God:** Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

**2.5 Minutes Talking To God:** After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer.

#### DAY 1

Colossians 1:1-2

#### Grace and Peace

*“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.”*  
Colossians 1:1–2 (NIV)

Have you ever met twins? Two babies who, somehow, are miraculously conceived at the same time, share a womb, and sometimes even look exactly alike. It’s amazing!

One of the things so interesting about twins is the unparalleled kinship they usually share. There’s an uncanny bond between them. At a twins festival, a writer asked about 15 twin pairs the same question: “What’s the best part about being a twin?” The overwhelming answer? “It’s like having a built-in best friend for life.” Scientific evidence actually suggests that twins enjoy lifelong benefits from having each other.

In the New Testament, we see a pair of twins, always joined at the hip, inseparable. Their names?

Grace and peace.

15 of the 27 books of the New Testament contain these words paired together in their introduction. They’ve been called the Siamese twins of the New Testament because they’re so commonly coupled together, particularly by Paul. It’s an ingenious combination of the common Greek and Hebrew greetings.

Grace (*charis*) means joy or free and unmerited favor. In the New Testament, it’s used to describe the Lord’s favor, manifested in the salvation of sinners in which Jesus freely gave of Himself to bless others.

Peace (*shalom*) means peace; a state of harmony and restoration. One Bible scholar put it this way: "The tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is."

Maybe the reason Paul so frequently pairs grace and peace together is because these two powerful ideas go hand-in-hand; they are inseparable. Whenever we see these two together in Scripture, grace always comes before peace. One can never know, experience, or walk in the peace of God until you have received and been changed by the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's grace in us is the source of our peace. It brings us into harmony with our heavenly Father through the restoration of our souls by the saving work of Christ.

As you receive, grow in, and are changed by the grace of God, you can experience true peace, the peace that surpasses understanding, the peace that comes from the freedom from sin and death that Christ Jesus died to give us, according to the will of God and for the glory of God.

So today, let's bask in this grace and let His peace wash over us.

**Consider:** How have you seen the grace and peace of God show up in your life recently? What area of your life do you most need the peace of God right now?

**Act:** Spend some time basking in the grace of the Lord and allow His peace to wash over you.

## DAY 2

Colossians 1:3-8, Romans 1:16

### **Love for the Church. Power in the Gospel.**

*"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit."* Colossians 1:3–8 (NIV)

There's an inseparable link between trusting Jesus and loving His people. You can't love God and hate the Church. The person who loves Jesus must also love His people.

Just as God loves us despite our imperfections and sent Jesus to die for us, we can love each other and be an active part of a fellowship as we strive together hand-in-hand to be conformed to the image of Christ and build one another up.

For the Colossians, their allegiance to Christ inspired a beautiful love for His people. Their faith and love for God—which sprang forth and overflowed from the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives—was made evident in their love for and service to God's people. And the same should be said of you and me today!

It's the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. There are no borders, language, philosophy, lifestyle, hard heart, or lost soul the gospel can't reach.

Paul saw the gospel move in pagan Gentile cities and take root within the Jewish culture. And the awesome thing is we're still seeing that today.

Genesis 12:3 says, "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you." This blessing, the gospel, came by the work of Jesus and has been spread out over the course of history by the Spirit through God's people. We have been called, equipped, and empowered to be part of God's work. He has positioned us as His voice, His hands, His feet, and His representatives to a lost and dying world.

When we take up the cause of Christ and carry forth the Great Commission, just like Paul said, the gospel will bring forth fruit everywhere it spreads, "just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace."

**Consider:** Why is it important for believers to have an understanding of the true gospel?

**Act:** Take a moment and share the love of Christ with someone this week.

## DAY 3

Colossians 1:9-12, Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:2

### The Blessings and Benefits of God's Will

*"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light."* Colossians 1:9–12 (NIV)

Colossians begins with two prayers from Paul to the Colossians. The first was a prayer of thanksgiving for their past. In the second, Paul asks God to bless the Colossians with very specific spiritual blessings that we, too, can experience today.

Paul asks the Lord to fill them with the knowledge of His will through the Spirit. Why? So they could live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way. This presents us with a vital truth of the Christian life: **We can't know the will of God if we don't have intimacy with God.**

Often, we associate God's will with what we do. We believe it's mainly about knowing what God wants from us in our everyday life or in a specific situation or decision. But what if Paul's prayer points to something beyond that? What if the will of God is less about what we do and more about who we are?

In Paul's letters, he tends to write about the will of God for believers in **being** terms rather than **doing** terms, in **who we become** rather than **what we do**. Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." The Greek word for mind is *noús*. One Bible translator describes it like this: "For the believer, (*noús*) is the organ of *receiving God's thoughts*, through *faith*." When we receive God's thoughts and are transformed by them, "Then [we] will be able to test and approve what God's will is" (Romans 12:2).

So, we could say that to know God's will is to understand His heart, mind, and character on a deep, intimate level. It's not about doing more good, but becoming more like Jesus. And if we want to become more like Jesus, we have to spend time with Jesus. The more time we spend with Jesus, the more intimately we'll know Him and become like Him. And the more like Jesus we become, the easier it'll be for us to know and walk in God's will for our lives as the Spirit's voice and direction becomes clearer.

The blessings and benefits we'll experience when we have a deep intimacy with Jesus and walk in God's will are many. We'll bear fruit, do good works, grow in the knowledge of God, be strengthened with endurance and patience, and develop a heart of deep gratitude (Colossians 1:10). These blessings are available to all of us when we seek intimacy with God. Each day we have the opportunity to let others see Jesus in us. And as we do, as we seek first His kingdom and righteousness, all these amazing blessings will be added unto us.

**Consider:** Why is it important to have intimacy with God in order to know His will?

**Act:** Make a plan to develop a deeper intimacy with the Lord in this season. Consider ways you can be more intentional about growing your relationship and cultivating a greater knowledge of His will and heart.

## DAY 4

Colossians 1:13-14

### Rescue and Redemption

*"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* Colossians 1:13–14 (NIV)

Yesterday, we learned when we walk in intimacy with Jesus, the Holy Spirit will reveal knowledge and wisdom to us, we'll understand God's heart, mind, and character better, and we'll become more like Jesus. We also learned about some amazing spiritual blessings we get as a result—we'll bear fruit and do good works, grow in the knowledge of God, be strengthened, develop endurance and patience, and have a heart of deep gratitude as we find contentment, peace, and joy in this life.

Why? Because of the gospel. It *always* comes back to the gospel. The gospel is our source for being made right with God, knowing Him intimately, and receiving adoption into His family. The gospel qualifies us "to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light" (Colossians 1:12). Because of the gospel, we can receive rescue (salvation) for today and qualification for eternity.

And here's the most beautiful and amazing part of it all: This qualification has been granted—it wasn't earned, nor could it ever be. We're sinners who aren't qualified to stand before a holy and perfect God. So, God sent Jesus to do the qualifying for us. It's He who gives us the status of holy people.

We have no means of escape from the dominion of darkness except through the light of the world who stepped down into darkness to pull us out and bring us into His marvelous light. We have no ability to rescue ourselves, so Jesus rescued us.

We no longer have to live in what Matthew Poole calls "the sadness and despair of the damned" because we have been eternally freed, forgiven, and redeemed. We've had our ransom paid, been released from our debt, been purchased and brought into the kingdom of the Son He loves.

We have a Savior who loves us, has given us life, and has qualified us to receive the riches of grace. Jesus paid it all! Despite all we've said and done, despite all our deepest failures and grossest sins, and despite our past, God, through Christ Jesus, offers us forgiveness. We don't have to be slaves to our history. Instead, we can walk in the Light and experience abundant life here and now and rejoice in the glorious life that awaits us in the future.

**Consider:** How are you walking in joy and gratitude today for the salvation you have in Christ in this life and the hope of eternity you have for tomorrow?

**Act:** Thank the Lord today for the redemption you have in Christ.