

PIECING LIFE TOGETHER:
A Survival Guide for Fragmented Times - Col.1:9-14

- i. The true story of a guy named Steve ...
- ii. Steve's story brings to light three great questions:
 - a. Who am I? (Identity)
 - b. Where do I fit? (Belonging)
 - c. What difference do I make? (Purpose) From *Growing Young* by Kara Powell
- iii. In a highly fragmented world there is a survival Guide. It is called prayer.
- iv. Too often we think of prayer as our words to God...Let's go slant with this today.
- v. Prayer is an act of attention.
- vi. Prayer is an act of listening.
- vii. Prayer is the water that germinates disciples.

3 BENEFITS OF PRAYER ...

I. PRAYER CREATES IN US A NEW IDENTITY v. 9

- "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking god to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding."
- From knowledge only to spiritual wisdom and insight.
- From book knowing (gnosis) to spiritual insight upon knowledge (epignosis).
- Prayer gives us a new identity.
- Nothing can take this identity away-Roman 8:37-39.
- We are a friend of God.
- Hello, my name is _____, and I am a son/daughter of God.

II. PRAYER CREATES A SAFE PLACE v. 10

- "We pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord."
- The phrase "may live a life" literally means to walk a life.
- This new identity creates a safe place to live and work it all out.
- The new identity in a person attracts others who are committed to live like this in a new community, a movement, called Church.

III. PRAYER GENERATES PURPOSE(S) V 10-14

- Bear fruit in every good work.
- Find strength in God.
- Endurance.
- Patience.
- Gratitude. Joy. Gratitude.