

A dramatic scene of a space shuttle launch. The shuttle is ascending vertically, leaving a massive, bright white and orange plume of fire and smoke. To the left, the launch pad's service structure is visible, with various platforms and ladders. The background is a deep blue sky filled with stars, suggesting a night launch. The overall atmosphere is one of power and technological achievement.

**KEYS  
FOR AN  
EFFECTIVE  
LAUNCH  
INTO 2020  
[AND BEYOND]**

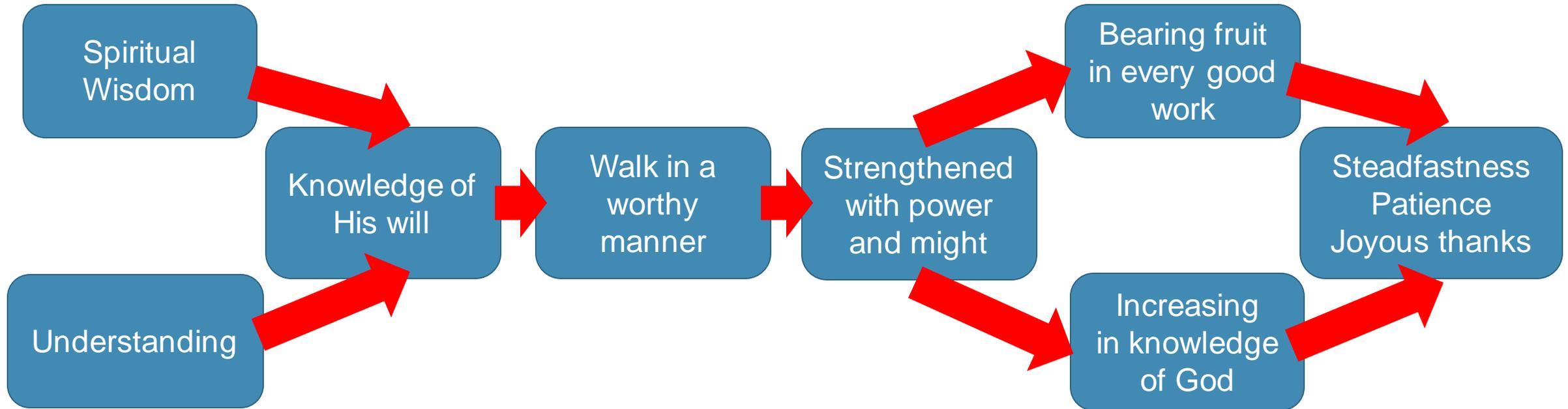
**PS ANDREW CAVANAGH | 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

# Paul's prayer for the church in Colossae

*For this reason also, since the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may **be filled with the knowledge of His will** in all **spiritual wisdom** and **understanding**, **so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and **increasing in the knowledge of God**; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the **attaining of all steadfastness and patience**; **joyously giving thanks** to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

Colossians 1:9-12 (NAU)

# Growing into joyous thanks



# Determining God's will for your life

*Rejoice always;  
pray without ceasing;  
in everything give thanks;  
for  
this is God's will for you  
in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NAU)

## Not sure of what to expect?

*And now, behold, bound in spirit, I (Paul) am on my way to Jerusalem, **not knowing what will happen** to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that **bonds and afflictions await me**. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that **I may finish my course** and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to **testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God**.*

Acts 20:22-24 (NAU)

# Our will v God's will

- We desire our **certainty**, God desires our **growth** (Ephesians 4:15)
- We want to make **plans**, God orders our **steps** (Proverbs 16:9)
- We look for **comfort**, God grants **contentment** (Philippians 4:11)
- We strive for **significance**, God puts us into a **body** (1 Corinthians 12: 18 - 27)

The reason the Pharisees missed the point with Jesus is that they were looking for a different sort of Messiah.

What sort of Jesus are we looking for?

What sort of Jesus do we represent?

**Knit  
together in  
love → true  
knowledge**

*For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, that their hearts may be **encouraged**, having been **knit together in love**, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in **a true knowledge of God's mystery**, that is, **Christ Himself**, in whom are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom and knowledge**. I say this so that **no one will delude you with persuasive argument**.*

Colossians 2:1-4 (NAU)

# Love the Lord your God with ...?

- *You shall love the LORD your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **might**. (Deuteronomy 6:5 NAU)*
- *And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**. (Matthew 22:37 NAU)*
- *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**. (Mark 12:30 NAU)*
- *You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **strength**, (Luke 10:27 NAU)*

**Our defining  
characteristic  
– love for  
each other**

***A new commandment** I give to you, that you **love one another**, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this **all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.***

John 13:34-35 (NAU)

**Love is  
to see the flaws in another,  
but to be committed to them anyway**

# Was that a one-off instruction?

- *If you **love Me**, you will **keep My commandments**.* (John 14:15)
- *This is **My commandment**, that you **love one another**, just as I have loved you.* (John 15:12)
- *This I **command you**, that you **love one another**.* (John 15:17)
- *This is **His commandment**, that we **believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another**, just as He commanded us.* (1 John 3:23)
- *And this commandment we have from Him, that **the one who loves God should love his brother also**.* (1 John 4:21)
- ***not ... a new commandment**, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we **love one another**.* (2 John 1:5)

## God's loving example

***We have come to know** and have **believed** the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and **the one who abides in love abides in God**, and God abides in him. By this, **love is perfected with us**, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. **There is no fear in love**; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. **We love, because He first loved us.***

1 John 4:16-19 (NAU)

# The proof of the pudding ...

*I am the vine, you are the branches; **he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit**, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.***

John 15:5-8 (NAU)

**My Word  
for 2020**

**Simply,  
to love  
as my first  
response**