I. Introduction. (Exodus 17:11)

II. The Colossians not only heard the gospel, but they came to know it understanding God’s grace.

A. Flesh and blood cannot reveal the gospel - it must be revealed by the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 16:16-17)

B. It is important to understand this because a person’s receiving Christ is not a work of man.

C. Keys to witnessing.

1. Pray for an opportunity to witness. (Colossians 4:4) Pray that the Spirit of God would convict that person of their sin. (1 Timothy 2:1-8)

2. Use your Bible. (1 Peter 1:21, John 15:26-27)

3. There must be a witness by your life and your lips.

III. What Paul prayed for the Colossians. (Colossians 1:9)

A. He prayed that they might know the Lord’s will and do it and that they might please the Lord

B. He prayed that this would result in:

1. Fruit bearing (Romans 15:18, John 15:4-5)
   a. The key to a fruitful life is having fellowship with Jesus, walking close to Him, and maintaining a pure life.

2. Growing stronger spiritually
   a. God is looking for a clean life. (2 Timothy 2:20, Acts 20:32)
   b. You never outgrow your need for spiritual growth.

3. Manifesting a joyful heart in the midst of trials.
   a. Only a joyful heart will help you through the trials.
   b. We need trials - they produce perseverance and character.
   c. God is not so much interested in our comfort as our maturity. (Colossians 1:28-29)

IV. Conclusion. (Acts 14:19, 2 Timothy 3:10)
Application questions

1. What is the essential element in witnessing? How does this release a burden from the one witnessing?

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2. How can we be an effective witness once the essential element is met?

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3. What does the Scripture teach about the purpose of trials in the believer’s life? Explain.

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