How Paul Prayed (1:9).

The focus of the prayer of Epaphras was the spiritual maturity of the Colossians. The focus of Paul's prayer was the will of God for the Colossians. Questions: what is the focus of your prayers?

1) He prayed CAUSALLY
   This is clearly indicated by the phrase "for this cause." Having learned from Epaphras about the Colossians faith, love, hope, -- Paul prayed. It's people like the Colossians who do need prayer!

2) He prayed JOINTLY
   The "we also" is a reference to Paul and Timothy (cf. 1:1). In addition to the interest of Epaphras, Paul and his son in the faith Timothy were active in prayer for the Colossians. Blessed is that one who has people (many) praying for him/her.

3) He prayed INSTANTLY
   From the very day Paul heard of Epaphras, he prayed. Now that's real concern. Too often one hears of prayer requests or needs, but they are soon forgotten. Not so with Paul and the Colossians.

4) He prayed CONTINUALLY
   For some this may be a hyperbole, but to those who believe Scripture, it is the truth. Paul must have had long daily prayers (cf. Eph. 1:16). The abbreviated prayers of modern believers is out of harmony with Pauline praying. He just did not stop praying. The middle voice of the verb shows personal interest.

5) He prayed PETITIONALLY
   Two verbs are used to express the action here. The one "pray" is a general term of prayer to God (cf. 4:12) while the other "desire" is a specific request. The second verb means to ask. James writes that prayer is asking rightly (James 4:2, 3). This is what Paul demonstrates.

6) He prayed PURPOSELY
   Three specific items are listed regarding the will of God.
   a. Its quality: filling. This must be a work of God as the aorist passive voice indicates. Oh, to be soaked with the will of God. All else follows this basic petition.
   b. Its content: knowledge. The original term means super or full knowledge. Ordinary information is not enough.
   c. Its operation: wisdom and spiritual understanding. The former is applied knowledge while the latter is a spiritual practicality to specific circumstances. "All" is singular, hence, every kind of wisdom and spiritual understanding is in view.

CONCLUSION
Some churches look for better methods while God is looking for better men. We don't need more committees or Madison Avenue novel methods, but we do need men who are mighty in prayer like Epaphras and Paul. To talk with men about God is great, but to talk to God about men is even greater! Amen.