

*To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: **Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.** We give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, having heard of **your faith in Christ Jesus**, and of the **love which you have** toward all the saints, **because of the hope** which is laid up for you in the heavens, of which **you heard before in the word of the truth of the Good News**, which has come to you; even as it is in all the world and is **bearing fruit and growing**, as **it does in you also**, since the day **you heard and knew the grace of God in truth**; (Colossians 1:2-6)*

What are some of the key elements Paul emphasizes here?

Grace, i.e. **graciousness** – it originates with God, not with us. Its something **we receive**.
Peace from God our Father and Lord Jesus – likewise coming from outside and received.
Faith in Christ – this faith is awakened by coming to appreciate and believe in Christ's faith.
Love you have – love is also something we cannot generate but rather receive and reflect.
Hope you heard in the word – this word being the Good News and its healing results and benefits.
Truth of the Good News – truth that sets us free from sin, free from fear, free of lies and unbelief.
Truth in God – the truth evidenced through Jesus of God's gracious kindness, compassion and love.

Let's look a little further at this passage to discover even more key insights that apply directly to our everyday lives.

*[Epaphras] declared to us **your love in the Spirit**. For this cause, we also, since the day we heard this, don't cease praying and making requests for you, that you may **be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**, that you may **walk worthily 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 the **might of his glory**, for **all endurance and perseverance with joy**; giving **thanks to the Father, who made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light**; who **delivered us out of the power of darkness**, and **translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love**; in whom we have our **redemption, the forgiveness of our sins**; **who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation**. (Colossians 1:8-15)*