

REVIVE CHURCH-ROMANS 8 SPIRIT OF SONSHIP 2 (FATHERS DAY)

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) 9 “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as [it is] in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Jesus put a rhythm in place through the Lord’s prayer to have fellowship and full dependency upon the Father. Jesus model for prayer is able to help us grow in our practice and understanding of the Father. His holiness and His complete and perfect leadership. The emphasis of His kingdom expressed through our lives. Thankfulness for His daily provision that is both spiritual and physical, the emphasis of His mercy found in forgiveness and our need to forgive others, His willingness and ability to fully deliver us and His ultimate kingdom reign.

Listen to Paul’s prayer as an Apostolic leader and spiritual Father for the church in Ephesus. His great longing like that of Jesus: that the church would have revelation/unveiling of the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Ephesians 1:15-20 (NKJV) 15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what [is] the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated [Him] at His right hand in the heavenly [places,]

Paul’s one general prayer here is that the **Father would give the church increased understanding of the knowledge of the Father** so that they would experience three expressions of His glory—

1. **the hope of His calling**, To walk in confidence (hope) related to God’s calling—His “assignment” for our life.
2. **the glory of being The Fathers inheritance**, To know who we are to God as His inheritance—how He sees us and feels about us.
3. **walking in the power of God**. To experience God’s power in our life—in our mind, heart, circumstances, and ministry as sons and daughters.

In this Apostolic prayer is the remedy for anyone longing to grow in the knowledge of the Father, including the depth of sonship. Paul appeals to God as the God of Jesus and the **Father of glory** (Eph. 1:17).

Gods redeemed people are invited to partake of the heavenly inheritance in increasing measure as sons and daughters just as we witnessed the only begotten Son, Jesus fully participating in when He walked this earth.

God's glory (essence of who He is) that the Father possesses is given as a means of grace when we are saved and in increasing measure as we hunger for more of Him and live a lifestyle that puts Jesus first.

Paul's primary prayer in asking for the the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to be released was that God's people would know or encounter Him by power of the Holy Spirit, that the "eyes of their understanding" (heart) be progressively enlightened by the Spirit (1:18). I like to look at this as the unlocking of our heart!

1. The knowledge of God includes what God the Father is like, how He acts and feels towards His people.

2. The natural mind cannot understand spiritual truths—we need living understanding that only comes from the Spirit. The natural man has no spiritual sight we need to supernaturally receive. The Scripture is more than intellectual ideas, but it is an unveiling of spiritual things which requires the supernatural capacities given by the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know [them,] because they are spiritually discerned.

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

The Greek word here for knowledge (epignosis) refers to experiential knowledge which is much more than informational knowledge/facts about God. To know or encounter Jesus Christ is the essence of eternal salvation.

Knowing God is to have personal, firsthand experiential knowing.

Foundational to Paul's approach to discipleship is that "the heart of a believer be enlightened."

It takes God to know God; thus, the Holy Spirit is in us, revealing the Father and Son to us, we earnestly pray for more. To Paul, this was the primary need for the Ephesian believers.

I. 18that you may know [by experience] what is the hope of His calling..

Paul's first specific request was that they have confidence related to God's calling for their lives the hope of His calling!— God's calling on our lives includes our calling to be in His eternal family (salvation), to be the eternal bride of Jesus but it also includes **His divine assignment for our lives**—

Our primary calling in this life is first internal, heart, mind soul. Jesus saves, delivers and equips us, transforming our desires. We no longer make decisions that satisfy the flesh but are led by the Holy Spirit to earnestly desire God and His fullness. *Our calling is to be a faithful disciple of Jesus that loves God and embraces what the world calls foolish* (humility, serving, giving, praying, forgiving, loving for the age to come.).

Our calling is also external, there are divine assignment that includes our position and function in the workplace , ministry within the church, and our home. This is what most people are focused on when considering their “calling.” **This what they do** This is an important part of our calling. However, it is not as important to our Father as who we are. What we do should flow from who we are in Christ.

- The Lord has given the vast majority of people an assignment that involves few things and makes very little impact (that can be measured by man in terms of the numbers impacted).
- We are to be faithful to the extent with what He has entrusted to us and not measure our value based upon influence but His love for us and our love for Him. Our Father's narrative and perspective is deep and wide, taking our heart posture, character and daily faithfulness into account.

Luke 19:17 (NKJV) “And he said to him, ‘Well [done,] good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’”

Everything in this life is preparing us for the age to come so spend time, effort, money and faithfulness in areas that will pass through to the next life. It is important to understand that what we do in this age continues with the age-to-come. Much discouragement is related to lacking understanding of how God values our small labors and how they are actually making an eternal impact. **By revelation we see that faithfulness in “little” now leads to “ruling ten cities” in the age-to-come.**

Hope is released in our lives when we have assurance that what we are doing is valuable to God.(even if men do not see its value).

II. 1:18b-what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
Paul's second specific request relates to who we are to God.

This prayer is to realize that we are God's inheritance. To know who we are to God as His inheritance is to know how He sees and feels about us. By making us His inheritance, God has revealed His passion for us. Paul spoke of both our inheritance in God (Eph. 1:14) and of the Father's inheritance in us (Eph. 1:18).

The great prize of all the ages-that the Father has chosen to give Jesus is a Church filled with voluntary lovers called (His bride). We are the reward that the Father gives to Jesus because we are what Jesus most desires.

Who we are to God is foundational to our spiritual identity: seeing ourselves as the object of His affection. We see the greatness, value, dignity, honor, and beauty that we possess in Jesus' eyes.

1. The Father loves us just as He loves the Son. John 17:23 (NKJV) "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.
2. As the Father loves us as sons and daughters, Jesus the son loves as a Bridegroom. Much of our insecurity and fear is related to lacking this revelation of His affections to us in our weakness. We falsely assume His love is conditional based on our performance.

III. 19 and what [is] the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Paul's third specific request relates to how we are empowered to live out our life in God. This prayer request is to experience the power of God and to perceive rightly how it operates in us. We need revelation to see how God has wisely chosen to release power in His Kingdom. God's way of maturing us is to give His power in small measures as we seek Him for a great breakthrough of power. This is not to discount power encounters the Holy Spirit has for us!

- He releases His power mostly in small measures internally and externally—
- When we see small measures of God's power as true expressions of His power and love, then we receive it with gratitude instead of despising it. Without revelation of this, we cannot see His hand in many things that He does for us. Therefore we can despise the "little" things that He is doing.

10For who has despised the day of small things? (Zech. 4:10)

- We must walk in the tension of being grateful and faithful in the days of small beginnings while being desperate for more of His power. We pray earnestly for revival because we see what we lack, while giving thanks for what we do have. We must repent both of

despising the day of small beginnings and of being content with far too small a measure of God's power in our midst.

We need revelation of the time delay that God strategically employs when releasing the greater measures of His power as well as understanding why God wants to release His power—which is to establish His name and to help people.

We need revelation that God actually wants to release a breakthrough of power in the ministry of the Church. We must never be content with powerless Christianity. Rather, we contend for NT Christianity that experiences the power of the resurrection. We need the Spirit's revelation to have a sustained vision for the full breakthrough of God's power in our region in God's strategic timing.

We must commit as sons and daughters to daily growing in the revelation of the knowledge of the Father and be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into the image of the Son.