



Title: Ephesians – Praying for Enlightenment

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

Date: 1-15-23

Bible Version: NIV

BOTTOM LINE: As we seek to know God better, we see the hope, riches, and power that belongs to us in Christ.

Paul's Prayer for Enlightenment

Vs. 15-16

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

- Paul was giving praise for their faith and their love for others.
- Paul was a man of prayer. Paul prays for spiritual insight for these believers.
- Paul's desire for the Ephesian Christians, and for us, is to truly see and understand all that God has for us.
- He gives us this model of intercessory prayer at the beginning of this letter that shows how we can pray for ourselves and other believers.

1. Know God Better

Vs. 17

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

- Paul first prays that above all else, they would know God better.
- The Holy Spirit gives wisdom - the ability to see life from God's perspective, to have discernment.
- This wisdom you need, the revelation you seek is found in knowing Jesus.

2. Know God's Calling

Vs. 18a

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you,

- *“The inability to see and understand spiritual things is not the fault of the intelligence but of the heart. The eyes of the heart must be opened by the spirit of God.” - Warren Wiersbe.*
- Paul wants them to see the hope they are called to - a certain hope, a living hope, a heavenly hope.
- *“Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.” – C.S. Lewis*

3. Know God's Riches

Vs. 18b

the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

- God loves you, and you are his inheritance, his treasure, that he is looking forward to receiving.
- *“This is an amazing truth- that God should look on us as part of His great wealth! Just as a man's wealth brings glory to his name, so God will get glory from the church because of what He has invested in us.” – Warren Wiersbe*

4. Know God's Power

Vs. 19-21

and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

- Paul is encouraging us that we don't have to live the Christian life in our own power, but we have access to resurrection power.
- *“If we were really convinced that prayer often changes the way God acts, and that God does bring about remarkable changes in response to prayer (as Scripture repeatedly teaches), then we would pray much more than we do. If we pray very little, it is probably because we do not really believe that prayer accomplishes much at all.” – Wayne Grudem*
- *“You're not supposed to be an average human being. If you're a believer in Jesus, you're a candidate to see the working of God's immeasurably great power in your life.” - Tony Evans*

Vs. 22-23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

- Christ is the head of the church, and we are the body. Christ does his work in the world, through His people. We are the hands and feet of Jesus; the church is to carry on his mission.
- There is no doubt who is going to win in the end, the church stands the test of time, because of the power and the purpose of Christ.
- Paul says we have the confidence that Christ goes with us everywhere we go, the church is what He fills with His glory, with His power, with His presence.

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: As we seek to know God better, we see the hope, riches, and power that belongs to us in Christ.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



1. How can you grow in your knowledge of God?
2. How does the hope to which you are called as a believer give you confidence?
3. How does the reality that the “same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in you” impact your life?
4. How does the eternal rule of Christ affect you and me?



DO.

Anytime you read God’s word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that were studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.