



*Every Spiritual
Blessing*

EPHESIANS - WEEK 4
Knowing the Holy Spirit

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

This morning we pray for Mamta. Hindu extremists placed her name on a list and presented it to a senior government official—accusing Mamta of converting other Hindus to Christianity. This is a prayer she wrote: “Oh God, who is sitting in the heaven, I give thanks to you. You are among us. Please remove all the difficulties of our neighbors who live in darkness — they don’t know you, Lord. They are perishing. Lord, have mercy on them. I also commit my own family into your hands. Mold us in the way you desire. Please help all the churches and the pastors so that they might be able to preach the

gospel. Please help me also. Forgive my sins, Lord. All my children are given by you, keep them safe under your wings. Thank you for listening to my prayers. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Frank Shelter and Anthology Church.

Closing prayer

INTRODUCTION

- Bumping into a Starbucks Friend (**Deut. 3:24 - Begin to show your servant your greatness and your strong hand.**)
- Knowing the Holy Spirit

1 | Point #1 - Knowing Yourself (Two True Things about Christians)

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason,

He begins with “for this reason” — in other

words, because you are God's children, because God is your Father, because you have been adopted, because all of the above is true of you, it's not just intellectual speculation but a reality in your life... for this reason, because you have this inheritance, because you have this birthright...

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,

He gives us two marks here, two things that are

true of someone who is now God's child through faith in Jesus Christ. And the first one is that ***not only do you claim to be a Christian, but others claim you are a Christian.*** Can you say that's true of your life? Not only do you believe yourself to be a Christian, but do others believe that about you as well? Is there someone who can say, "I have heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus?"

Secondly, do you love God's people? That is to say, do you like hanging out with Christians? This isn't about leading an insulated life. It's about

what group of people you feel the most comfortable around. You like hearing the story of how someone came to faith in Christ or how God did a work in someone's life. You have an instant camaraderie with other Christians.

- The father-in-law I've never met

Paul loved other Christians, which is why he then writes:

16 I do not cease to give thanks for

you, remembering you in my prayers,

2 | Point #2 - Knowing Others

Remembering makes us thankful.

You can't be thankful for someone if you don't believe God is at work in their life. The more active you believe God is in someone's life, the more thankful you will be for them.

Unthankfulness is often a sign of unbelief.

Not only did Paul believe God was at work in the lives of these Christians, but he prayed for an ever deeper work to take place.

Listen to this prayer.

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts

enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet

and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Now, let's break down this prayer.

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- Thoughts on the Lordship of Christ/Frame/
theme of chapter one

the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of

wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

There are different types of intelligence in the world. Some people have an aptitude for math. Some people have a natural intelligence when it comes to making money. They see opportunities that others miss. Some people have a natural ability to read others. They understand what makes people tick. God has gifted all of us in different ways with natural intelligence. And on

and on I could listing different types of intelligence if I only had a natural aptitude to do so.

The intelligence Paul is speaking of here is available to every Christian, but not every Christian has it in the same measure. But every Christian can have it in an increasing measure and that is spiritual intelligence or spiritual wisdom — the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.

3 | Point #3 - Knowing God's Wisdom by the Spirit

The Holy Spirit who lives in you, who lets you know you are God's child, also has wisdom to teach you. But it's a wisdom that he reveals in the knowledge of Christ. This doesn't mean things just occur to you. It's not a wisdom that just pops into your head. It's a wisdom of study and experience. We're talking about an ongoing and deepening understanding of who God is and how

he relates to us. It's a revealed knowledge, but where is the knowledge of God revealed? Where has God revealed himself to us?

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

God's word reveals God. God's word reveals God's heart. God's word reveals the incomprehensibility of this God who has made

himself known to us. This God who is beyond our understanding in so many ways has asked us to choose him over and above every other relationship in our lives, so that better become an experientially real relationship. But we can only carry on a meaningful relationship with him if we have the Spirit impart God's wisdom through his word.

- Harry Ironside - Andrew Fraser dying of tuberculosis - "My dear young man, I learned these things on my knees on the mud floor of a little sod cottage in the north of Ireland.

There with my Bible open before me, I used to kneel for hours at a time and ask the Spirit of God to reveal Christ to my soul and to open the Word to my heart, and he taught me more on my knees on that mud floor than I could have learned in all the seminaries or colleges in the world.”

What exactly is he talking about?

¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened,

When the Holy Spirit gives you spiritual wisdom, you understand the hope to which he has called you. Do you feel hope? Do you feel bright about the future?

When you die you will walk right into the presence of Jesus Christ and see him face to face. Immediately upon death. The sting of death is removed for the Christian. That's a great hope. Biblical hope is a feeling of deep certainty.

But not only do you feel hope, but do you have

some idea of these riches of Christ, these glorious birthrights that you have as a Christian?

First, just to be loved by God is your birthright as a Christian. Now, all this knowledge isn't just about knowing about God. If the Holy Spirit is revealing God to us through his Word, it's going to be an experiential knowledge of God. In other words, we will experience Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

- J.I. Packer and the greatest benefit of the

gospel

4 | Point #4 - Knowing God's Power by the Spirit

19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

We have access to the immeasurable greatness of his power, because we have access to him as our Father.

This is what I can't help feeling sometimes. "Lord, something's wrong." Where is this immeasurable power, because I know some people who need it. Are we so shy about the Holy Spirit that we grieve him? Do you try and keep a respectable distance from the Holy Spirit? Have you known anyone or has there been a time in your life when you could say, "Wow, that was the immeasurable greatness of God's power!" It's experiential! Is this a daily experience? That's not what I'm saying. But what I am saying is that it's something we should

desire because Paul's praying that Christians would know it.

This is where I am sometimes envious of charismatic and pentecostal churches. Yes, I think there are some errors in their theology, but what I can't fault them for are their expectations regarding God's immeasurable power.

“Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5 that God has granted to Christians the ability either to restrict or release what the Spirit does in the life of the local

church. The Spirit comes to us as a fire, either to be fanned into full flame and given the freedom to accomplish his will, or to be doused and extinguished by the water of human fear, control, and flawed theology.” (Sam Storms)

²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

This is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. Maybe we should begin to expect a little more from the Christian life. This isn't stuff

Paul just wants them to know, it's stuff he wants them to experience, this immeasurable greatness of God's power.

²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

In the heavenly places — you've been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. If the immeasurable power of God is in the heavenly places right now then it's also with

you right now, because you have every spiritual blessing, which includes the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us.

Lord, can I say this? **“God wants to unleash his immeasurable power toward you today.”**

Do you need the power of God for something or someone? What if God wants to unleash himself upon you today? Are you ready for that? Are you willing to accept it?

5 | Point #5 - Knowing God's Authority by the Spirit

Listen to how great his power is, this power that is yours because you have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm:

²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

He's not saying it's so far above them in the sense that it's remote. But that there is no greater power in the universe than the power of the Spirit in your life right now. **The Holy Spirit has the power above all powers.**

This is where what we say we believe and what we actually trust in don't come together. There are others sources, others authorities, other powers that we trust in more to solve our problems for us.

22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

We are supposed to be a full people, spiritually speaking. Not starving and anemic, not thin and powerless, but full... **the fullness of him who fills all in all.**

He wants to fill everything that you are with everything that he is — **the fullness of him who**

fills all in all.

Do you feel full of the Spirit? Do you know there's a glory cloud over you? Or has the glory departed from you? What is it you need God's immeasurable greatness for today?

- Closing/Is God your Father?/Motivation

Jeremiah 33:3

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not

known.