



A Prayer for Enlightenment

Ephesians 1:15-19

As we come to this section of Ephesians Paul has completed his song of celebration - a record-setting 203-word sentence in which he has successively celebrated their mutual blessing and redemption and, finally, salvation. But though the song has ended, he has not stopped celebrating, because he now goes on to praise God for the practical outworking of the blessings he has been singing about, as evidenced by the Ephesians' faith and love.

"For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers" (vv. 15, 16, italics added).

Scriptural References: Romans 5:5, John 13:34, 35, Romans 1:9; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 1:3, 4; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Philemon 4.

As far as everyone is concerned, many experience displeasure when they see others in possession of spiritual goods. They feel sensibly hurt because others surpass them on this road, and they resent it when others are praised. - St. John of the Cross

1. PAUL PRAYS FOR A BETTER _____ OF CHRIST (v. 17)
(John 17:3, Genesis 4:1, Matthew 7:22, 23, Galatians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 8:3.)

Greek: gnosis vs. epignosis
(Romans 3:20 and 1 Corinthians 13:12, Philippians 3:10)

Greek: tou gnonai auton = "that I may know Him"
(1 Corinthians 2:10, 11; Luke 11:13)

2. PAUL PRAYS FOR BETTER SPIRITUAL _____ (vv. 18, 19)

a. First, _____.
(Romans 5:2, Romans 8:17, Colossians 3:4, 1 John 3:2).



b. Second, _____.

c. Third, _____.
(2 Kings 6:15-17)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Start It Out

When have you felt the most empowered to achieve something that was significant to you? What gave you that strength or ability? How did it feel to tap into that power and accomplish what you did?

Talk It Out

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-19. What does Paul pray for, and why? Now read Ephesians 1:20-23. Paul wants the Ephesians to know God's "incomparably great power." How and where have you seen God's power illustrated in your life?
2. List the words and phrases Paul used to describe the power of God that is available to believers. Share your experience of each one. On the above list, what stands out to you? Why? What does this teach you about God? What does this teach you about yourself?
3. Where do you need to experience the power of God? Where in your personal life? Where in the world around you? Where in our church?
4. Do you want to rely on God more? What step of faith do you need to take in order to increase your need for the power of God? What will you experience if you take that step of faith? Are you willing to take that step?

Live It Out

The lesson this week focuses on prayer. Take a moment. Sit still. Breathe a prayer for yourself, your group, your family, your church, your nation, your world. Now, exhale and trust in God.