

Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul

Ephesians 1:15-23

A Prayer for Wisdom and Revelation in the
Knowledge of Him

Part 2

Overview of the Prayer

- This prayer contains four major parts.
- Paul prays that the Ephesians would be given the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they might:
 1. Know God
 2. Know what is the hope of their calling
 3. Know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints
 4. Know the exceeding greatness of his power toward us-ward who believe

Enlightened Understanding

- The result of having the spirit of wisdom and revelation is that the eyes of our understanding might be enlightened.
- The word “enlightened” means to give light, to illumine, having had light thrown upon, have had illuminated. Consider the following Biblical examples:
 - Luke 11:36—“doth give thee light”
 - I Corinthians 4:5—“will bring to light”
 - Ephesians 3:9—“to make all men see”
 - Hebrews 10:32—“illuminated”
- Paul is talking here about a true spiritual enlightenment whereby the eyes of our understanding comprehend what God is doing thereby given us wisdom in how to act properly.

The Hope of His Calling

- The spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him is designed to open the eyes of their understanding so that they might know some things.
- The first thing Paul wanted them to know was the hope of their calling.
- Hope—expectation of good, joyful and confident expectation, expectation, anticipation, that which is looked forward to, expectation of something future, a well-grounded expectation and a gladly and firmly held prospect of future good.
- Paul wants believers to know the hope, expectation, and anticipation that comes from knowing the nature of our calling.
- Ephesians 4:4—believers only have one hope.
- Philippians 3:14—believers also possess a high calling in Jesus Christ.

The Hope of His Calling

- Paul's prayer that we might know the hope of this calling.
- Titus 2:13—our hope as believers is tied to the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ to call home his church to himself.
- I Thessalonians 4:13-18—the next time Christ appears it is to meet the church in the air.
- I Corinthians 15:51-53—notice the fact that we shall not all sleep (i.e. die) before the Lord appears in the heavens to meet us in the air is part of the mystery.
- Do you see how we need the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him to understand the hope of our calling?
- It is at the rapture or the day of redemption that the believers hope is realized as this mortal and corruptible body will be fitted with incorruptible and immortal body.

The Hope of His Calling

- Romans 8:18-25—we are saved from our present suffering because of the hope (confident expectation of a coming event) that our bodies will also receive redemption from the curse of sin that is upon creation.
- Philippians 2:20-21—the hope of the believer is that we will be glorified together with Christ.

His Inheritance in the Saints

- Notice that this verse is talking about **his inheritance** not **our inheritance**.
- Our inheritance is discussed in Ephesians 1:11-14. Romans 8:17 tells us that we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ, however, that is not what his verse is talking about.
- Paul wants us to know about God the Father's inheritance. Inheritance means:
 - property received (or to be received) by inheritance
 - what is given to one as a possession
- Notice where God the father receives his inheritance—in the saints.
- Please understand what Paul is saying. God the Father stands to inherit something through us the church the Body of Christ. What is it that God inherits through us? The authority of rule and dominion in the heavenly places.

His Inheritance in the Saints

- Colossians 1:16-20—it is through the blood of his cross that Jesus Christ will reconcile all the governmental structures of heaven and earth back to himself.
- Isaiah 14:12-16—Lucifer's initial boast was to be like the most high.
- Genesis 14:19—the term the most high means to be the possessor of heaven and earth. When Satan said, “I will be like the most high,” he was saying he wanted to be the possessor of heaven and earth.
- John 12:31—refers to Satan as the prince of this world. Ephesians 2:2—refers to Satan as the prince the power of the air.
- It is through the body of Christ, the subject of the mystery kept secret since the world began that God is going to repossess the heavenly places back to himself.

His Inheritance in the Saints

- It is through us that God will reestablish his authority over the heavenly places and receive them again as his inheritance.
- Ephesians 3:10-11—it is us the church the body of Christ that teaches the principalities and powers in heavenly places the manifold wisdom of God.
- So we see that not only did we need God but he needed us so that he might accomplish his eternal purpose through his son Jesus Christ.
- Not only are we the recipients of an inheritance because we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ but God the Father receives an inheritance in and through us as members of the body of Christ.
- Do you see how we need the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him to understand God's inheritance in the saints?

The Exceeding Greatness of His Power

- The third thing Paul wants us to understand is the exceeding greatness of God's power that he has exercised toward us who believe.
- Exceeding greatness—means to transcend, surpass, excel, to surpass in throwing, to throw over and beyond a thing. Surpassing vastness.
- Notice that this power is only demonstrated toward those who believe.
- Working—is used in the NT only of superhuman power.
 - Ephesians 3:7, 4:16—effectual working
 - Colossians 2:12—operation
- This power has already been utilized on behalf of believers. Paul wants believers to know the exceeding greatness of God's power unto them.
- Ephesians 1:19-20—the same power that God used when he raised up Christ from the dead and glorified him in the heavenly places has been exercised toward us who believe.

Conclusion

- When was the last time you prayed this prayer for yourself or someone else?
- Rather than praying for healing we ought to pray that saints would understand the hope of their calling.
- Example of how to pray this prayer for yourself and someone else.