

**Ephesians Part 3:
A Prayer for Spiritual Knowledge**
Ephesians 1:15-23



Tim Strickland

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

¹⁶ *I do not cease to give thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers,*

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.*

Theme of the Passage: A Prayer for Spiritual Knowledge

Ephesians Series: God's Purposes for You in Christ

January 8 Part 1: Introduction to Ephesians

January 15 Part 2: God's Blessings to You in Christ

January 22 Part 3: A Prayer for Spiritual Knowledge

January 29 Part 4: Dead in Sin, Alive in Christ

February 5 Part 5: Saved by Grace, Not Merit

February 12 Part 6: The Mystery of the Gospel

February 19 Family Day

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Introduction: The Reason for Paul's Prayer is your faith in Jesus (v15)

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

- a. "For this reason," refers back to 1:3-14, the Spiritual blessings his readers have received in Christ (last week's message)
 - God chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world
 - God predestined you in Christ for adoption as sons
 - God redeemed you from sin through Christ's blood
 - God revealed His universal purpose to you in Christ
 - To unite all things in Christ, in the fullness of time
 - God gave you an inheritance in Christ
 - God sealed you in Christ with the Holy Spirit
- b. Paul bases his thanksgiving and prayer on two things
 - *Your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ*
 - *Your love toward all the saints* (Note: saints=believers)
- c. In short, Paul's prayer is based on their status as believers in Jesus who have received all of God's glorious blessings in Christ

1. Paul thanks God for you, and prays for you (16-18a)

¹⁶ *I do not cease to give thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers,*

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,
having the eyes of your hearts enlightened*

- a. "Intercessory" prayer – when you pray or intercede for others
 - Paul thanks God for his readers and prays for them
- b. Our passage today is Paul's intercessory prayer asking God for his readers to have:
 - *the Spirit of wisdom*
 - Wisdom from the Spirit of God to fully grasp your spiritual blessings in Christ (see 1a above)
 - *and of revelation*
 - Revelation from the Spirit to know your spiritual blessings in Christ
 - *in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your heart enlightened*
 - "Heart" describes not only your emotions. In the Bible, the heart represents the source of physical life and your inner life, including your emotions, will, and mind (source: O'Brien)

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2. Paul Prays for you to have Spiritual Knowledge in 3 Ways (18b-19)

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,*

Paul prays for your spiritual knowledge of three things:

a. *the hope to which he has called you*

• The hope of:

- Salvation
- Holiness
- Resurrection
- Eternal Life
- God's glory
- All things united in Christ (source: O'Brien)

b. *the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints*

- God sees you as his riches – his glorious inheritance
- The saints also receive a glorious inheritance in Christ

c. *the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe,*

- Paul explains this power in the section below

3. God's power to raise Jesus from the dead and exalt Him to God's right hand is the same power that is at work in you (19b-23)

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.

God's great power that overcomes death and grants rule over the physical and spiritual realms, as evidenced in Jesus, is the power that works in you!

The fullness of Jesus fills his body, the church, empowering us, for his glory!

God wants you to be radically moved and changed by the deep spiritual knowledge of your blessings in Christ

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Your Response

1. Thank God for his great power that works in you as a believer!
2. Meditate on the three pieces of spiritual knowledge that God wants you to possess in Jesus (point 2a, 2b and 2c in today's message)
3. Read Ephesians in your Bible. Use an accurate, readable translation such as the English Standard Version or the New Living Translation.
4. Believe in Jesus for forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Him.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3:23-24

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Questions for Reflection

1. What are the six blessings in Christ from last week's message?
2. What is intercessory prayer? Who do you intercede to God for?
3. What does it mean to have "the eyes of your heart enlightened?"
4. What three pieces of spiritual knowledge does God want you to possess?
5. How does God describe the power that He works in you?
6. How might a deeper knowledge of Jesus and God's blessings to you in Him change how you live?
7. Have you responded to the gospel message in faith and repentance, trusting in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and eternal life? Why not do so today?

2 Cor. 6:2b *now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*