

Ephesians 1:15-23
by Carla Burton

15Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Paul spends an inordinate amount of time in these scriptures bragging on these people! He is very impressed with the Ephesian people and you can tell from this scripture very attached to them as well. He is so impressed by their love towards the saints and faith in God that He basically brags on them to God in his prayer time. What an impressive thought. Wouldn't you love to be the kind of Christian in your church that your pastor prays to God and brags on you to heaven? What an exciting thing to realize that were being held up before glory as a model of Christianity. God did it before Satan one time regarding his servant Job. Our goal in this walk should be to live our lives in such a way that our leaders could brag on us before God. There have been time that I have prayed, "Lord, give us 10 more couples like that couple. Or Lord give me 10 more youth or singles like that one." That is what Paul did - he bragged on this church before God.

But not only did he brag on them he also shared that he prayed for them often in his prayer time and that this is what he prayed for them. He prayed that they would get the “spirit of wisdom”. We have to understand that we are not born “wise”. In fact we learn that early on when we have to go to school. It is hard work to learn. We are born sinners and the only thing that our flesh knows, without learning, is how to sin. We have to teach ourselves to learn of God, to learn what is right, to do what is right. The Bible tells us that if any lack wisdom – he has to go to the source to learn – and that source is God!! (James 1:5) We need to realize that we will have to have wisdom if we are going to be that Christian that can be bragged on. We have to know how to live for Christ, how to handle problems that arise between us and others (as God has asked us to handle them – read Genesis 32 and Matthew 18), how to live holy and walk upright before God. There are many things that we need to know how to do and we will only know how to do them right if we get the wisdom of God active in our lives. Paul wanted the Ephesians church to realize how important wisdom was and so each time he prayed – he asked God to give them the spirit of wisdom.

He also asks God to give them revelation in knowledge of Him. There is a difference in knowing ABOUT God and having a revelation of God. In Luke 24:45 Jesus was trying to get the disciples to understand His purpose for coming to the earth (his death, burial and resurrection) and so he had to open their understanding. This was giving them revelation. Now more than just hearing what He was saying they could completely comprehend what Jesus was trying to say. Christians must ask for revelation. The Bible is deep and vast and for us to begin to understand what God is trying to reveal to us or what we need to do we have to have revelation. Pray that God will open the scriptures to your mind. Pray that God will help you to do more than just read his Word but you actually want to see the principles, the concepts, the theme that flows through the book and how what you are reading fits into that picture. You want to fully understand why He taught things, asks things and desires things for us and from us. Revelation will bring revival into your life!

He wants them to have open eyes to see how blessed they really are. What is the hope of their calling, the riches of God's glory that He has left as inheritance for them. Paul is extremely passionate about the Ephesians realizing who they are in Christ. He continues with the desire for them to understand the greatness of God's power for believers. He wants them to realize that they belong to Christ and as such have access to ALL His blessings and powers.

He ends this portion of study by telling them who Jesus is. He above all principalities, powers, might and dominion. There will never be another name, in this world or in the world to come, that will match the power that is in Jesus name. And because we are "His children" we have access to all this through Him as well. Jesus Christ has conquered everything and all things have been put under His feet. He overcame all, He is over all, He is the head of everything and we as His body are the earthly representation of that dominion. We need to live our lives understand who we are in Christ and what our purpose is on this earth. We are the salt and light because we are His bodily representation left on this earth. Just remember that you are not representing yourself but rather Him. If He is all these things we just talked about then you can stand and realize that you are those things as well THROUGH HIM!!! Don't hang your head - look up because as His child you are the best thing to happen to your city, your church, your family and your circle of influence.