

SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING PART 2

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We spent some time last week looking at Paul's prayer for Christians to receive a 'spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. 'We viewed how wisdom causes us to understand spiritually and revelation (or illumination) causes us to see spiritually; both of which we need to walk with God into our full destiny. Today we will investigate the rest of Paul's prayer for us and get another perspective from Paul concerning wisdom and revelation.

"¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and ^ayour love for all the ^bsaints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of *you* in my prayers; ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the ^cknowledge of Him. ¹⁸ *I pray that* the eyes of your heart ^dmay be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the ^esaints, ¹⁹ and what is the ^fboundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about 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 every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet and made Him ~~head over all things~~ to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all" Ephesians 1: 15-23 NASB

1. Paul gives us three truths that he wants the Holy Spirit to enable us to see and understand from his prayer for us.
 - a. The hope of God's call on our lives.
 - b. The riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints... that is us!
 - c. The surpassing greatness of his power toward us and in us who believe.
2. The Hope of Gods calling
 - a. "⁵ For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:5 NASB
 - b. He has called us to belong to Jesus and into the fellowship of Jesus (hint- See Romans 1:6 and 1Coninthians 1:9)
 - c. He has called us to "walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls us into His own kingdom and glory." 1 Thessalonians 2:12
3. The Riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
 - a. "He has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light." Corinthians 1:12
 - b. 1Peter 1:4 says our inheritance is "' imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you... "
 - c. We are God's children, God's heirs and 'fellow heirs with Christ' Romans 8:17

- d. "2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is." 1John 3:2 NASB
 - i. That is a rich, glorious inheritance!!
4. The Surpassing greatness of God's power in us.
- a. ... "The transcendent greatness of his power in us believers... (resurrection power) Ephesians 1:19- Weymouth
 - b. ...The super abounding greatness of his inherent power to us who are believing ones." Ephesians 1:19 - Wuest NT.
 - c. "how tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God...Ephesians 1:19- Phillips

This is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

The same power that caused Jesus to sit in the heavenly places, enthroned at God's right hand, far above every other authority or power.

This same power has made him the head over all things for the church.

Man is human and he cannot avoid death, and man is fallen and sinful and cannot overcome evil.

The power of God in Jesus has defeated both and can rescue us from both. WE must see and understand this thoroughly.

Paul prayed all this for the Ephesian Church and for us, and he continued to walk out these truths.

5. "And when I came to you, brothers *and sisters*, I did not come as *someone* superior in ¹speaking ability or ²wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the ³testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ I also was with you in weakness and fear, and in great trembling, ⁴ and my ⁵message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of ⁶wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith would not ⁷rest on the ⁸wisdom of mankind, but on the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NASB
6. "... My message and my preaching... were dependent for their efficacy upon a demonstration of the spirit and of power, in order that your faith should not be resting in human philosophy but in God's power." Wuest N.T.
- a. "For God intended that your faith not be established on man's wisdom but by trusting in his almighty power." 1Corinthians 2:5 The Passion
7. "6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ *the*

wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;" 1Corinthians 2:6-8 NASB

- a. Paul prayed in Ephesians chapter one that we will have 'a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him...'and in 1Corinthians chapter 2 he tells us this is a wisdom 'not of this age,'
- b. " ⁶Yet when we are among the full-grown (spiritually mature Christians who are ripe in understanding), we do impart a [higher] wisdom (the knowledge of the divine plan previously hidden); but it is indeed not a wisdom of this present age *or* of this world nor of the leaders *and* rulers of this age, who are being brought to nothing *and* are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But rather what we are setting forth is a wisdom of God once hidden [from the human understanding] and now revealed to us by God—[that wisdom] which God devised *and* decreed before the ages for our glorification [to lift us into the glory of His presence]." 1Corinthians 2:6-7 AMPC
- c. See Ephesians 3:1-7 and Colossians 1:26-28
- d. "...Which wisdom not one of the rulers of this age has known in an experiential way, for had they known it, in that case they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory..." 1 Corinthians 2:8 Wuest N.T.

8. " ⁹ but just as it is written:

"THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,
AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HUMAN HEART,
ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

¹⁰ ^[a]For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. ¹³ We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, ^[b]combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

¹⁴ But ^[c]a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But the one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is ^[d]discerned by no one. ¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ." 1Corinthians 2:9-16 NASB

9. " ⁹ This is why the Scriptures say:

Things never discovered or heard of before,
things beyond our ability to imagine^[e]—

these are the many things God has in store
for all his lovers." 1Corinthians 2:9 The Passion

10. Last week we looked at all the things that are already ours in Him, in Jesus, and Paul expressed his deep desire for us to grow into the fullness of seeing and knowing those things experientially.
11. Now we see Paul describing things that we have not yet known but that await us, that are prepared for us and are even stored up for us. These things are revealed to us by God.
12. ¹⁰ Yet to us God has unveiled *and* revealed them by *and* through His Spirit, for the [Holy] Spirit searches diligently, exploring *and* examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God [the ^[a]divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny]." 1Corinthians 2:10 AMPC
13. ¹² For we did not receive the spirit of this world system but the Spirit of God, so that we might come to understand and experience all that grace has lavished upon us. ¹³ And we^[a] articulate these realities with the words imparted to us by the Spirit and not with the words taught by human wisdom. We join together Spirit-revealed truths with Spirit-revealed words." 1Corinthians 2:12-13 The Passion
14. ¹³ And we are setting these truths forth in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the [Holy] Spirit, combining *and* interpreting spiritual truths with spiritual language [to those who possess the Holy Spirit]." 1Corinthians 2:13 AMPC
15. ¹⁴ But the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept *or* welcome *or* admit into his heart the gifts *and* teachings *and* revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned *and* estimated *and* appreciated." 1Corinthians 2:14 AMPC
16. ¹⁴ Someone living on an entirely human level^[a] rejects^[b] the revelations of God's Spirit, for they make no sense to him. He can't understand the revelations of the Spirit because they are only discovered by the illumination of the Spirit. 1Corinthians 2:14 The Passion
17. ¹⁶ For who has known *or* understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide *and* instruct Him *and* give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) *and* do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart. 1Corinthians 2:16 AMPC