

# SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING

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Two weeks ago, we looked at three words... Illuminate, Appropriate, and Eliminate. We saw how these three words are used in the process of renewing our minds and 'clearing the runway' for the work of His spirit in our lives. Today we will look at how Paul prayed for these issues in the lives of early Christians.

## 1. Illuminate

- a. to enlighten, to receive revelatory wisdom, insight or instruction.
- b. To receive revelation, to have something uncovered to you.
- c. Something presented to your heart or mind directly as to the meaning of the acts of God, the secrets of the person Jesus, the character of God the Father, the ways of the Holy Spirit, the will of God for us or His thoughts for His Church.
- d. Illumination or revelation can come to us to show God's purpose for this age or to help us receive knowledge of God or His word in our inner man. It may simply be a work of the Holy Spirit that leads us to a more complete understanding of the truth.

2. <sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better "

Ephesians 1:15-17 NASB

- a. <sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints (the people of God), <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him. "Ephesians 1:15-17 AMPC
  - i. Paul's prayer is for us to discover, comprehend, appreciate and appropriate all the implications of the blessing we have already received by becoming a child of God. It is vital that we know.
  - ii. He prays that we would have wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God. This kind of knowledge is impossible without revelation.
  - iii. This is 'true knowledge' that involves both genuine experience with real understanding... it emphasizes knowing him personally... there is no higher knowledge than the knowledge of God himself.
  - iv. "Philosophy, taking man for its center, says 'know thy self.' Only the inspired word which proceeds from God has been able to say 'know God'" - Adolphe Monod

b. Paul prays for us to have the power to understand the amazing blessing that is already ours. <sup>7</sup> "But we have this treasure in [a] earthen containers, so that the extraordinary *greatness* of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;" 2 Corinthians 4:7 NASB

3. We have, as Christians, already received this treasure, we need to see the unspeakable value of what we have been given.

a. Paul's prayer is that we would have a touch from God that empowers us to probe and unfold the deep things of God. Look what we have, just in what Paul wrote to the Ephesians:

- 1:7-8
- i. "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ," Ephesians 1:3 NASB
  - ii. "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before [a] Him. In love." Ephesians 1:4 NASB
  - iii. <sup>7</sup> "In [a] Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He [a]lavished on [b] us. In all wisdom and insight" Ephesians 1: 7-8 NASB
  - iv. <sup>9</sup> "He [a]made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him," Ephesians 1:9 NASB
  - v. <sup>13</sup> "In [a] Him, [a]you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also [a]believed, you were sealed in [a] Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise, <sup>14</sup> who is a first installment of our inheritance, in regard to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory." Ephesians 1-13/14 NASB

b. All these things are ours now in Him. The Ephesians were not in full understanding or fulfillment of these truths, so Paul writes to them and prays for them that they will 'grow' into these realities.

- i. <sup>18</sup> "I pray that the eyes of your heart [a] may 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 [b] saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the [a] boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might <sup>20</sup> which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet and made Him head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:18-23 NASB
- ii. <sup>18</sup> "I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, [a] flooding you with light, until you experience the full revelation of the hope of his calling [b]—that is, the wealth of God's glorious inheritances that he finds in us, his holy ones! <sup>19</sup> I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God's power made available to you through faith. Then your lives will be an

advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power 20 that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted him[c] to the place of highest honor and supreme authority[d] in the heavenly realm! 21 And now he is exalted as first above every ruler, authority, government, and realm of power in existence! He is gloriously enthroned over every name that is ever praised,[e] not only in this age,[f] but in the age that is coming![g] 22 And he alone is the leader and source of everything needed in the church. God has put everything beneath the authority of Jesus Christ[h] and has given him the highest rank above all others.” Ephesians 1:18-22 The Passion Translation

iii. Wisdom causes us to understand revelation (illumination) causes us to see we need them both to walk with God ongoing.

4. Paul gives us three truths that he wants the Holy Spirit to enable us to see and understand from his prayer for us.
- The hope of God’s call on our lives.
  - The riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints... that is us!
  - The surpassing greatness of his power toward us and in us who believe.
5. The Hope of Gods calling
- “<sup>5</sup> 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
  - He has called us to belong to Jesus and into the fellowship of Jesus (hint- See Romans 1:6 and 1Corinthians 1:9)
  - 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
6. The Riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
- “He has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. Corinthians1:12
  - 1Peter 1:4 says our inheritance is “ imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you... “
  - We are God’s children, God’s heirs and ‘fellow reins with Christ” Romans 8:17
  - “<sup>2</sup> 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
    - That is a rich, glorious inheritance!!
7. The Surpassing greatness of God’s power in us.
- ... “The transcendent greatness of his power in us believers... (resurrection power) Ephesians 1:19- Weymouth
  - ...The super abounding greatness of his inherent power to us who are believing ones.” Ephesians 1:19 - Wuest NT.
  - “how tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God...Ephesians 1:19- Phillips

John 15:16-17

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 can not 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 the truths.

“<sup>8</sup> More than that, I count all things to be loss <sup>[a]</sup>in view of the surpassing value of <sup>[b]</sup>knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, <sup>[c]</sup>for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them *mere* rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and <sup>[d]</sup>the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already <sup>[e]</sup>grasped *it all* or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that <sup>[f]</sup>for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brothers *and sisters*, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet*; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3: 8-14 NASB