

# THE PASSIONATE, POWERFUL, POSITIVE PRAYER OF PAUL

## PART 15 EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1

Ephesians 1:16-18 **SLIDE**

*(<sup>15</sup>I...) <sup>16</sup>do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you ~~the~~ a spirit of **wisdom** and **revelation** in the **knowledge** of Him [the Father of Glory], <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your **understanding** being **enlightened that you may know** ...*

This morning I'd like us to get a general overview of this prayer of Paul and then, in the ensuing weeks we will look at it more specifically ...

In this profound prayer, Paul tells us, **from verse 17**, the points that he prays.

NB: He is not actually praying here ... He's telling us the points and pattern of his prayer, because **he wants us to know where we've been brought to and to whom we've been brought** ...

This prayer tells us what we should be praying for ... looking for ...

NB: Paul didn't pray for the Ephesians because they needed blessing ... but because they were already experiencing blessing.

### **HOW OFTEN DO WE PRAY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLESSED?**

Most of us only pray for the needy ...

*I could call Helen who heads up Prayer Connection and say, 'Can we pray for Merilee?'*

*'OK ... What's wrong with her?'*

*'Oh, nothing ... She's growing so much in her faith and love ... And her ministry's getting stronger ...'*

*Helen would be a little confused ...*

**This is not just praying for the sick ...**

**This is praying for the Well.**

**WHOEVER HEARD OF THIS CONCEPT OF PRAYER?**

*Paul could have said, 'OK you guys, I don't have to worry about you anymore ... You've got it together ... I'm gonna leave you to your blessings ...*

*NO! He hit the floor to pray and didn't stop praying for them ...*

Paul is saying, 'Don't think because you've experienced faith in the Lord Jesus and love for all the saints [Ephesians 1:15] you've arrived and **you know it all**. There's much more you've already been given that **you need to begin to understand**. There's a wealth of wonder still waiting for you.

**I WANT YOU TO KNOW & UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS**

***LOOK AT THE WORDS I'VE HIGH-LIGHTED IN OUR TEXT ...***

Ephesians 1:16-18 **SAME SLIDE**

*(<sup>15</sup>I...)<sup>16</sup>do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the a spirit of **wisdom** and **revelation** in the **knowledge** of Him [the Father of Glory], <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your **understanding** being **enlightened that you may know ...***

***THIS IS NOT PRAYING FOR WHAT WE DON'T HAVE ... THIS IS PRAYING TO UNDERSTAND & KNOW WHAT WE DO HAVE.***

*So many of us ask for what we've already been given, because we don't understand everything we have in Christ Jesus.*

*The Ephesians had had an experience in God and as wonderful as it was ... Paul immediately says ... Don't encamp around your experience and remain trapped in it ...*

***There is yet a wealth of knowledge you still need to grasp ...***

***THE GREATEST NEED WE HAVE NOW IN CHRIST IS TO UNDERSTAND & KNOW WHO WE ARE ... AND WHO'S WE ARE ...***

*When I was diagnosed with cancer ... the Lord told me, 'This is not about healing' – the immediate need ...*

***'This is about learning' –***

***SO I SAW, IN GOD'S ECONOMY ... KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN PHYSICAL HEALING ...***

***SO THERE IS A WEALTH OF WONDER WE'VE BEEN GIVEN IN CHRIST AND HAVE YET TO DISCOVER ...***

**BUT THERE IS ONE ULTIMATE DISCOVERY**  
**ABOVE ALL THE REST**

NB: PAUL RECOGNISED THAT THESE EPHESIANS HAD COME TO A PLACE WHERE THEY COULD BEGIN TO **DISCOVER THE ULTIMATE THING ...**

**SO WHAT IS THIS ULTIMATE THING WE SHOULD DISCOVER & UNDERSTAND???**

**PAUL REVEALS IT HERE IN HIS PRAYER**

Ephesians 1:17-18 **SLIDE**

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the a spirit of wisdom and revelation in **the knowledge of Him [the Father of Glory]**, <sup>18</sup>the eyes of your understanding being enlightened **that you may know ...***

**'THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM' MEANS MORE THAN AN INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING OR KNOWING ABOUT HIM ... IT MEANS TO KNOW HIM PERSONALLY.**

*I can say, 'I know Donald Trump ... I know Barack Obama ...'  
The thing is ... they don't know me.  
**I know about them ... but I don't know them personally.***

**THIS IS KNOWING HIM PERSONALLY ...**

**PAUL PRAYED THE ULTIMATE PETITION FOR US AND THAT IS TO KNOW GOD PERSONALLY.**

He also prayed it for the Colossian church.

Colossians 1:9

*For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will [desire] in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.***

John 17:3 **SLIDE**

*And this is eternal life, that **they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

Jeremiah 9:24

*But let him who glories glory in this, That he **understands and knows Me** ...*

NB: Paul didn't pray for their comfort ... for their prosperity ... for their protection. He prayed that they may know God personally.

THE GREATEST NEED WE HAVE IS TO KNOW HIM PERSONALLY

### **SO WHO IS THE 'HIM' WE SHOULD KNOW?**

*Some people say it's the Lord Jesus ...*

*But it is NOT ...*

*This whole passage of Ephesians chapter 1 is about God, the Father.*

**PAUL REVEALS WHO THE 'HIM' IS IN THIS TEXT - THE ONE WE SHOULD HAVE, AND CAN HAVE, FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ...**

Ephesians 1:16-17 **SLIDE**

*(<sup>15</sup>I...)<sup>16</sup>do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: <sup>17</sup>that **the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you ~~the~~ a spirit of wisdom and revelation in **the knowledge of Himself** ...***

**THIS 'HIM' IS THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

NB: Paul doesn't just say 'God', but THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

**THIS NOW IDENTIFIES THE TRUE GOD ...**

In the Old Testament God was identified as 'the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob'.

BUT TODAY, HE'S 'THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST'.

ANYONE PREACHING OTHERWISE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT 'HIM'.

Romans 15:6 Berean Study Bible

*So that with one mind and one voice you may glorify **the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

THIS GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS IS NOW OUR GOD AS WELL.

John 20:17 **SLIDE**

*[Mary,] ... go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to **My God and your God.**'*

**BUT ALSO ...**

**You see in eternity the Son was equal with God and so, God was not the God of the Son in Heaven ...**

**But when This Son was born as a man ... God was His God.**

*Every person has a god to whom they bow ... It can be money ... it can be power ... etc ...*

**THIS IS THE GOD THE MAN JESUS BOWED HIS KNEE TO WHILE ON EARTH.**

**'God' means the ultimate deity of all power ...**

**This is the God whom The Lord Jesus relied on ... prayed to ... walked with ... was guided by ...**

**This is the God whose words He spoke ... whose miracles He performed ... whose wisdom He shared ...**

**Jesus was The Man who had lived, and loved and healed and died and who was raised from death by His God ...**

**This God is The God of the Perfect Man – the Saviour of mankind ...**

**This is The God who sent His son to this Earth ...**

**AND THIS GOD IS ALSO OUR GOD ...**

**THERE WAS NO GREATER MAN THAT HAS EVER WALKED UPON THIS PLANET ... AND HE WALKED UNDER HIS GOD ...**

**THIS IS THE GOD WHO IS PRESENTED TO YOU IN PAUL'S PRAYER.**

**YOU STAND BEFORE HIM IN PAUL'S PRAYER ...**

**THIS GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS ALSO YOUR GOD & YOU CAN KNOW HIM PERSONALLY & INTIMATELY ...**

**BUT PAUL GOES EVEN FURTHER  
HE CALLS 'HIM' ALSO -**

**'THE FATHER OF GLORY'**

**Ephesians 1:16-17 **SLIDE****

*(<sup>15</sup>I...)<sup>16</sup>do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of glory**, may give to you **the a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him [the Father of Glory].***

HIS GLORY IS THE EXPRESSION OF WHO HE IS ... HIS MANIFEST PRESENCE

**Acts 7:2** Berean Study Bible

*And Stephen declared: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! **The God of glory** appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.*

PAUL IS SAYING YOU CAN KNOW THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF GOD IN ALL HIS GLORY ...

He dwells in unapproachable light. No one can see His face and live.

BUT NOW IN CHRIST WE CAN VIEW THE FATHER OF ALL GLORY.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

*... We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

### THE EXPERIENCE OF KNOWING CHANGES US INTO BEING

**GOD LEAVES HIS GLORY IN ALL HE TOUCHES ...**

**HE'S THE FATHER ...**

**HE REPRODUCES HIS GLORY IN US ...**

**THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS 'TO HAVE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF HIM'.**

THE WORD IS **EPIGINOSKO** WHICH WE SPOKE ABOUT A FEW WEEKS AGO, WHEN WE SAID IT IS **A LEVEL OF KNOWING WHERE THE OBJECT & THE SUBJECT BECOME ONE.**

**WE CITED 1 Corinthians 13:12 -**

*For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

**YOU, THE SUBJECT, BEGIN TO ENCOUNTER THE OBJECT ... THE FATHER OF GLORY ... AND YOU, THE SUBJECT, BEGIN TO BE LIKE HIM ...**

Last time we saw God's ultimate desire was for us to be infused as One with him. But here we read Paul praying that we would have this ultimate desire to be One with Him ...

An encounter with the God of Our Lord Jesus Christ ...

## SO HOW CAN WE HAVE ENCOUNTERS WITH THIS FATHER OF GLORY?

Ephesians 1:17 **SLIDE**

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the **a spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of Him [the Father of Glory].*

PAUL REVEALS THE DISPOSITION WE MUST HAVE TO BE ABLE TO  
PERCEIVE & RECEIVE THIS KNOWLEDGE

*TO HAVE A DISPOSITION OF WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING ...*

*We need a heart that can detect his presence and can receive revelation of who He truly is ... in all His glory ...*

When God's presence is near ... our heart discerns and responds. This spirit of wisdom and revelation is discerning God's presence and having revelation of Him ... A DISCERNING HEART IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT ENCOUNTER HIM ...

### VISITATION

The Lord often visits us, but we often don't respond because we don't have a disposition to discern his presence ...

**1 Samuel 3:10**

*Now **the LORD came and stood** and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."*

Song of Solomon 5:4 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*My beloved put his hand to the latch; **my heart pounded for him.***

Luke 24:32

*(On the Emmaus road) ... **Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us ...***

THIS IS ALSO A HEART THAT YEARNS FOR HIM ABOVE ALL ELSE

HOW DO WE GET THIS DISPOSITION? - WE ASK!

Ephesians 1:17 **SLIDE**

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you** the a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

**Have you ever asked the Father for A Discerning Heart?**

**HE HEARS THIS PRAYER ...**