

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

Note: There are many truths we can learn in the Bible when we study prayer request from Paul. After teaching us about the roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in salvation he prays that we realize what that can mean in our daily lives. In a real sense he is not just helping see what more blessings we can receive from the Lord he wants to be sure we know what we already have.

I. Paul prays for believers to grow in their knowledge of God. (15-17) Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That 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: This is not just knowing about God this actually knowing who God is. True faith in Jesus means we believe he is our savior, Lord, Bishop of our souls, shepherd, high priest, advocate and that because we know Him with we have eternal life. In other words we know that God exist, that Jesus of Nazareth was God in the flesh on this earth, died was buried and arose from the dead. We know the Holy Spirit is real and is living inside of us.. **Colossians 1:9** For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; In Colossians Paul adds that we might be filled with the knowledge of his will. Another way to say that is that we maintain a conscious contact with God so we can live as He would have us live. **Dr.McGee writes:** Paul, having written that the church is the body of Christ, and that God the Father planned it, God the Son paid for it, and God the Holy Spirit protects it, recognized that the Ephesians wouldn't be able to understand all this unless the Spirit of God was their teacher and opened the Word of God to them. **Only the Holy Spirit of God could reveal the knowledge of God.**

II. Paul prays for us to know the hope of our calling. (18a) **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,** Here Paul address hope. There are a couple of verses I want to look at.

A) There are promises related to our calling. **Romans 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. My most glorious hope is eventually I am going to be conformed to the image of Jesus. What goes along with my calling is the word justified. If I back up to verse 28 I am told that all things in my life are under God's control and He is using them. I am not just part of a world that is spinning out of control. I am not a victim.**

B) There is a special hope confirmed as a result of being justified. **Romans 5:1-5 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Because I am justified I am standing in grace and these verses tell me that no matter what happens to me I am not alone in any trial. The Holy Ghost reveals to me how God is applying Romans 8:28 in my life.**

III. Help us understand the riches of his glory (18b) and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, Peter speaks of an inheritance in **1 Peter 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, It is incorruptible, undefiled, doesn't decay and it is being reserved for us in heaven. Jesus addresses this inheritance in **Matthew 6:19-21** Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1. The Spirit of the Lord provides the freedom to fellowship with Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. This is talking about a conscious relationship with God and living your life in the power of the Holy Spirit. What do I mean by that? **1 Corinthians 2:9-10** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. That means when God works a miracle in your life you recognize it as miracle from God. Every summer I go to Americas Keswick to a Bible Conference. The first thing the director says to me is welcome home. On the sign entering the property it says where God Speaks to hearts. And He always speaks to my heart because the liberty which comes knowing I am the presence of Jesus. He tells through the indwelling Holy Spirit. I feel close to the Lord, my spiritual batteries get charged.

2. God gives us glimpses of who we will be when He is finished transforming us. 2 Cor. 3:18 But 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*. My purpose on this earth is to bring glory to God. When God gives me directions and I follow them I bring Him glory. The next time I do this I am going from glory to glory. The goal is to be like Jesus. We must never forget we belong to Him.

IV. The power to earn and preserve the inheritance is supplied by God. (19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **Philippians 2:12-13** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. **1 Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. God supplies the will to serve and the power to complete that will according to Philippians 2; the strength to do all things according Philippians 4 and the power to preserve the inheritance until we receive our inheritance according 1 Peter.

V. Jesus is sufficient to supply all our needs. (20-23) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far 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: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. Jesus arose from the dead, ascended into heaven where He everliveth to make intercession for us, is greater than anything ever created, is above all things and is the head of the church. The church is His body and He is the head of that body. **Colossians 2:9-10** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: Peter has given us a wonderful summation of what we have learned. **1 Peter 1:2-5** Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Chosen, redeemed, sealed, elect, called, sanctified, completed, empowered all for the glory of our Lord.