

“Paul’s Prayer for the Commissioned”

Series: Learning to Live “in Christ” - Ephesians

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Insecurity is a common problem among humans, and Christians are no exception. Insecurity is on Paul’s mind as he writes to encourage these Gentile Christians. So far, Paul has without hesitation stated that the Gentile Christians are legitimate Christ-followers, equal to any or all!

Paul first shares his own thanks to God because of them:

“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, ¹⁶ **I have not stopped giving thanks for you**, remembering you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:15-16

Paul then asks God for 3 things for them:

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order **that you may know the hope** to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ **and his incomparably great power for us who believe**. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:17-23

1. Paul asks God to give them the Spirit of _____, to know the Father better.

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so that you may know him better. Ephesians 1:17

- **God consistently offers wisdom, defines wisdom, instructs where & how to find it! WHY?**
- **God wants us to trust Him but there is a big difference between knowing of God & knowing God!**

2. Paul asks God to open the eyes of their hearts, to be better enlightened regarding _____.

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order **that you may know the hope** to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,” Ephesians 1:18

3. Paul asks God to open the eyes of their hearts, to know the _____ extended to Believers!

“...and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”

Ephesians 1:18-21

Conclusion: Paul is praying for our hearts to be Secure: about God, about the Future, about Power now!

All Scriptures are from the New International Version unless noted.
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