

# Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul

Ephesians 1:15-23

A Prayer for Wisdom and Revelation in the  
Knowledge of Him

# Overview of the Prayer

- This prayer contains four major parts.
- The Ephesians would be give the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they might:
  1. Know God
  2. Know what is the hope of their calling
  3. Know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints
  4. Know the exceeding greatness of his power toward us-ward who believe

# The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

- Paul's prayer for the Ephesians and therefore for us, is that God the Father would give unto us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.
- Please notice that the word "spirit" in this verse is not capitalized, therefore, Paul is not referring to us being given the Holy Spirit the third member of the Godhead.
- Ephesians 1:13-14—teach that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit as the earnest of our inheritance.
- What does Paul mean then?
- He is talking about the working of the HS in the lives of the Ephesians to grant them wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

# The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

- The goal of Paul's prayer is that the Ephesians would be given (bestowed, granted, or supplied) with a spirit sensitive mind that is filled with the wisdom and revelation essential for knowing him.
- There is an indivisible juncture between the spirit and mind of believers. God the Holy Spirit, through the medium of the human spirit, imparts to the minds of believers divine wisdom.
- II Corinthians 2:11—the only reason we know anything about God is because the indwelling Holy Spirit has illuminated our understanding.
- Ephesians 1:8—wisdom is one of the spiritual blessings that God has caused to abound in us.
- What is the spirit of wisdom? It has often been said that knowledge is what we can know in our minds as individual facts and truths; however, wisdom is the ability to successfully apply that knowledge to whatever we are doing.

# The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

- Notice that the result of this prayer is that the Ephesians might know God. If we are going to know God today in the dispensation of Grace we need to be able to know and apply that knowledge to the details of our life.
- Therefore, there is only one type of wisdom that would result in the Ephesians knowing God today in the Dispensation of Grace and that is the wisdom of God in a mystery.
- I Corinthians 1:17-2:13—the word wisdom is used 13 times
- I Corinthians 2:7—Paul is speaking about the wisdom of God in a mystery. You cannot truly know God today with understanding the secret purpose that he is now accomplishing through the body of Christ.
- Ephesians 3:10—through the revelation of the mystery God has revealed his manifold wisdom to creation.

# The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

- Colossians 1:28, 2:3, 3:16—all deal with different aspects of the wisdom of God.
- Paul also prays for the spirit of revelation. The word revelation carries the following meanings:
  - Unveiling, uncovering of facts and truths, disclosure
  - The word literally means to uncover, hence, the disclosing and opening up of mystery truth pertaining to the Body of Christ, the Church.
- Paul's use of the noun revelation in conjunction with the mystery, the truth for the Church, confirms the fact that his main burden is for them to have insight and enlightenment into God's present church purpose in Christ.
- Consider the following verses:
  - Romans 16:25—revelation of the mystery

# The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

- I Corinthians 2:10—God has revealed to us His hidden wisdom
- II Corinthians 12:1, 7—Paul was continually receive more information from God.
- Galatians 1:12—Paul received his information by the direct revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 3:3, 5—it was through these revelations that Paul received that God unveiled his secret purpose for the body of Christ.
- The ultimate result of the spirit of wisdom and revelation is that we might know God.

# Enlightened Understanding

- The result of having the spirit of wisdom and revelation is that the eyes of our understanding might be enlightened.
- The word “enlightened” means to give light, to illumine, having had light thrown upon, have had illuminated. Consider the following Biblical examples:
  - Luke 11:36—“doth give thee light”
  - I Corinthians 4:5—“will bring to light”
  - Ephesians 3:9—“to make all men see”
  - Hebrews 10:32—“illuminated”
- Paul is talking here about a true spiritual enlightenment whereby the eyes of our understanding comprehend what God is doing thereby given us wisdom in how to act properly.