

Ephesians 1:16-23 Prayer

Intro

When a believer studies the Word of God, one of the greatest assets to their spiritual growth is the prayers the Apostles Paul and Peter prayed for various churches in the NT such as the Ephesians, Colossians, and Peter's prayer for various Jews. These are prayers that are filled with revelation of our inheritance given to us through Christ. They contain vast numbers of revelations that cover various areas from our prayer life to our authority over the enemy and our right to live an abundant life free from the curse of the law.

v. 16

- This verse reveals one of the most priceless benefits any believer can receive and operate in during their lives: the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him
 - o This is critical for the believer because instead of merely reading the Word and going on with little to no revelation of the Word, they are brought into deep understanding of it
 - o Believers must go beyond obtaining a mere knowledge of the Word to operating in a revelation of what it means
- This verse has a 2-fold part that works hand-in-hand: the first is to possess REVELATION OF THE WORD
 - o When the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the truth of the Word, our faith grows and we both know the truth and apply it by faith; once we do this, we watch our faith give substance to God's promises
 - o Revelation of the Word will propel the believer to delve farther and father in the Bible
 - o It becomes the key to sparking a passion for becoming a student of the Word, one who goes beyond mere knowledge to deeper insight, which produces freedom through Christ in spirit, soul and body
- When the Father pours out the spirit of wisdom and revelation on believers, the 2nd key is to have wisdom concerning the revelation of the Word

- This is just as crucial as having revelation of God's Word in any area
- When the revelation of the Word comes to our inner man, we must then adamantly pray for the wisdom to apply that revelation and see it give substance to all the promises of God
- Wisdom is just as critical as the revelation of the Word because if we receive the knowledge of the Word but lack the wisdom to apply that revelation, it cannot be of any real value to us
- If wisdom is not coupled with revelation, than we get the same result as not having any revelation at all; we must understand the truth of the Word and then have God's wisdom in order to receive the manifestation of the promise

V. 18

- Once we come to the place of possessing both revelation and wisdom of the Word of God, we can understand great truths that impact every believer
 - The hope of our calling through Christ
 - When we walk in the spirit of wisdom and revelation, we can have our eyes opened to the calling of God upon our lives
 - This enables us to eliminate any tendency to wander off of the path the Lord has laid out for us
 - It allows the Good Shepherd to lead His sheep down their unique path of righteousness for their lives
 - When we have our eyes opened to our calling, we then have peace that passes all understanding while being led beside the still waters
 - This peace comes as a result of avoiding aimless living and merely wishing to have the Lord's best for our lives; we have our eyes on the prize and have the faith to run the race set for us
 - The riches of the glory (depth and wealth) of our inheritance available through Jesus
 - The wisdom and revelation of God must shine into our hearts in order to partake of our full inheritance
 - We begin to see that every believer is to experience far in their life than having their spirit born again and becoming a son or daughter of God

- We then understand that not only did Jesus pay the price for our salvation, but also for the health of our bodies, our financial prosperity and all other things pertaining to life and godliness
- **Romans 8:32**
 - Our heavenly Father went to the extent of sacrificing His Son Jesus on the cross and with that sacrifice all things we have need or want for in this life are FREELY available to us also
 - We can approach the Lord with all boldness and confidence that when we ask anything according to the Word of God, we know that the price has been paid for all good and perfect things
 - This enlivens our faith that we can receive all we need or want; it eliminates all doubt that God is someone that changes one day to the next and varies from child to child

V. 19-23

- The exceeding greatness of God's power toward all of His children not only did glorious works in Christ like raise Him from the dead, seat Him at the right hand of God and make Him Lord over all, but it engulfs every area of our lives: spirit, soul and body
- Almost no one in the body of Christ is aware that when the New Testament speaks of salvation, it involves far more than the recreation of the spirit
 - The word *sozo* in the Greek has the range of meanings from: deliverance, safety, preservation, healing and rescue
 - This is an extremely valuable revelation because it shows us that when we receive the Lord Jesus as Savior, we become just as much delivered and healed in our bodies and souls from all attacks as are our spirit is saved and made new in Christ
 - Believers cannot afford to limit salvation to the spirit only because it severely limits the areas of victory and success they can experience in life
 - It also allows the devil to build continual strongholds around us that can hinder our walk with the Lord and His calling upon our lives

- The exceeding greatness of God's power in our:
 - o Spirit
 - We have been completely reborn; the old man, the one before salvation, has been eliminated and there is no evidence of him at all
 - We are new creations and the inner man is now filled with the life of God, alive to all that ours through Christ
 - All authority the curse of the law had over us before salvation has been eliminated and we now live under the blessing of Abraham
 - Each child of God now has the Spirit of God dwelling inside them; we are brought into eternal fellowship with a loving Heavenly Father, the Son of God and the precious Holy Spirit
 - o Soul
 - The devil's lordship over our mind, will and emotions is eliminated, terminating such powerful weapons as fear, guilt and condemnation
 - Through the renewal of our minds to the Word, these crippling devices are replaced with powerful resources such as peace passing all understanding, the joy of the Lord and the divine love of God
 - The harmful emotions that fill this world can now be put aside and we can live a life of emotional peace and stability
 - Through the meditation on the Word of God, our minds become renewed to the nature of God and, in turn, we have the ability to overcome the devil's attempt to bind our walk with the Lord
 - o Body
 - The exceeding greatness of God's power to the newborn believer also covers any problem or attack against the body
 - There is no need for any child of God to suffer under the curse of the law against the body
 - Any ability for the devil to steal kill or destroy our health has been eliminated through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (John 10:10)

- This enables every believer to be confident that the Lord will heal their body just as much as He will save their spirit or refresh their mind, will and emotions
- Far too many believers limit this exceeding power to the moment they were born again and then expect the rest of life to only be as good as they can make it
 - They decide through ignorance and the attack of the devil against their minds that the Lord will only involve Himself in their lives to the degree He chooses to, not the degree the Word says He will
 - They believe that they are not righteous nor in any position to stand on the promises of God's Word so their obligation is to struggle and live an average life at best, rather than the Spirit-filled life of success and victory paid for with the blood of Jesus
 - This is one of the greatest weapons of the devil against the believer and must be combated by the renewal of the mind to the Word
 - We are only able to develop faith in this truth by the continual meditation of the Word until it goes from mere knowledge of the Word to an abundant and living revelation to our spirit
 - When this happens, our minds will not get in the way of our faith and prevent it from coming to pass
 - Those thoughts that present themselves to our minds we can then cast down and bring them into captivity to Christ, rather than them bringing us into the bondage of the devil (2 Cor. 10:4-5)
- God's exceeding power is available to us every hour of every day but the choice is ours as whether or not to accept it by faith and experience the manifestation of it
- Then when we do, we will see the power of God do exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or think possible