

EPHESIANS 1:16-18—A PRAYER FOR KNOWING THE FATHER OF GLORY

We have truths too magnificent for words to describe, which is why God's own revelation requires illumination of His Spirit in order for believers even to begin to understand the marvelous magnitude of blessings. Paul is concerned for the Ephesians to know more and more of the endless riches of God's grace. This is a prayer for all Christians always.

He is anxious that they should catch a glimpse of the glorious views which he himself was enjoying from the mountain tops of this life. The panorama stretched out before him and new heights kept appearing. Don't stop.

It is much harder to pray than to read and study God's Word.

1. FATHER OF GLORY

A. WHO PRAYER IS TO

Paul prays to God the Father.

We need to be reminded of the one of whom we are going to speak. Everything must be laid aside when we turn to Him. Realize what you are going to do. You are going to speak to the Father of Glory with confidence because He is the God of our Lord through Him to the Father.

B. GOD IS GOD OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

In the OT He was known as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It was to the God they knew.

Paul prays to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We come to God because we have a new covenant in the person of Christ.

God is actually the God of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Do you know what that means? In eternity God the Father was not the God of God the Son, although the relationship of the Father and Son existed eternally. But when Christ came to earth and took on flesh He now approached the Father as a man, and so God became His God.

My God and your God—John 20:17, Jn 14:10, Heb 10:19—We cannot know God without Christ.

C. FATHER OF GLORY

Remember the burning bush Exodus 3:5, Heb 12:9, James 1:17

The very nature of God is glory. Acts 7:2, Rom 6:4

He is the fount of all glory. Glory is the sum of all the excellencies, perfections, and attributes of God Himself.

The ultimate characteristic of God is glory. His very nature is glory. We stand in amazement before this Father of glory.

1 Tim 1:11, Jn 17:24, 2 Cor 3:18 When we go in prayer, expect revelation of His glory.

God does not keep His glory to Himself. He imparts it.

2. SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION

A. KNOWING GOD

Our supreme need is to know God. This is the goal.

Our ideas are so man centered, so subjective. We start with man and

his needs instead of starting with God. We start with sanctification rather than the person of God.

John 17:3, 2 Cor 4:6, Job 42:5, Ps 42:1-2

Amos 3:3, Matt 11:27, John 14:23

Man's troubles are always due to his ignorance of God.

We need to know His attributes. The Puritans constantly preached the attributes and that is very important. However that is theoretical and intellectual knowledge. Paul includes this kind of knowledge but he goes beyond it. The demons have that kind of knowledge.

HOW CAN ONE COME TO KNOW GOD?

The spirit of wisdom and revelation is the answer.

B. SPIRIT OF WISDOM

Pneuma—breath, air; sometimes means attitude, disposition

Matthew 5:3, Jn 4:24, 1 Cor 2:7

Sophia—Godly knowledge and understanding. Use of knowledge

Prov 9:10 This goes beyond intellectual knowledge

It is having a full fellowship with God. It is an encounter with God.

It is true personal, intimate knowledge. It is being conscious of His presence, always. We are to know something of His glory.

The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence being in His presence even happens in the kitchen when you wash the dishes.

C. REVELATION

Apocalupsis—revealing, uncovering—God imparting knowledge to us

1 Cor 2:10, 2 Cor 3:14, 4:6

3. UNDERSTANDING GOD'S GREAT PLAN

A. HEART

Kardia—center of knowledge, understanding, thinking, and wisdom

The seat of the mind and will

B. ENLIGHTENED

The cataracts have to be removed. The Emmaus disciples had information But not understanding.

Luke 24:31-32, Col 3:16—When the Holy Spirit works in the believers mind, He enriches it to understand divine truth that is deep and profound and then relates that truth to life

1 John 2:20,27

Hope of His calling

God not only chose you to save you, but He chose to save you eons before You existed, eons before you would have opportunity by His grace to choose Him.

Until we comprehend who we are in Christ, it is impossible to live an obedient life that is fulfilling.

It is our realization that we have been called to these things and for these things.

Rom 8:29

Effectual calling

He calls His elect to bring them to Himself through His Son, making them His children

We have a heavenly calling and a holy calling.

Riches of the glory of His inheritance

The prayer is that they be enlightened to understand the great truths of election, predestination, adoption, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, insight, inheritance, sealing and pledge of the Holy Spirit. " My knowledge of that life is small, the eye of faith is dim." Richard Baxter" 2 Cor 12:3-4
Jn 17:24, 1 Jn 3:2, Phil 3:21, 1 Pet 1:3-5, Matt 25:34