

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-09 “Knowledge ... Enlightenment”

10/26/2025

EPH 1:16-17 “I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,¹⁷ [so that] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him...”

¹⁸ *having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, [so that] you may know:*

- *what is the hope to which he has called you...*
- *what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...*
- ¹⁹ *and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe...*
 - *according to the working of his great might...*
 - ²⁰ *that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead...*
 - *and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places...*

SO That ... May Give... May Know

Paul’s prayers for the Saints were in response to his desire for “spiritual growth leading to maturity” ... But this was dependent upon their increased knowledge in what God had given them **“IN CHRIST”**

SO THAT...

- **vs 17)** *May give you... to give freely / openly / as a gift... bringing “joy” to the Giver...* Paul’s prayer is that they MAY POTENTIALY arrive at a place where this is a reality... *The potential is on their side, NOT God’s*
- **vs 18)** *May know... to have full knowledge of a thing so as to understand purpose, function, application...*

Both verbs show the **subject** is **“potential”** ... BUT the **goal** is **“Real”**

The **“knowing”** is dependent upon the **“giving”**

As the Father gives the Believer “spiritual wisdom and revelation” they have the potential of “Knowing” all that follows...

**** The “Ingredients” are made available... WE must mix them together so that we obtain the intended product ...**

It is NOT just God... It is NOT just us... **“With / Through / By...”**

HIGHER KNOWLEDGE ...

Vs 17c “in the knowledge of Him [Christ]...”

- **Epignosis** – not learned but **“refined / elevated / made superior”**
- Although the Father is the **“source”** the **Knowledge** is about what He has given those who are **“IN CHRIST”**
- This “Knowledge” is ONLY available **FROM** God **TO** Believers...
- Paul prays that the **“might arrive at this place”**

HAVING ENLIGHTENED...

¹⁸ *having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, [so that] you may know...*

- **“Having been enlightened...”** – **“Phōtizō”** – *a “flash of light” - sudden illumination given by another* –
 - As the Believers receive this **“higher knowledge”** they will “suddenly” see what has been obscured or “hidden in darkness”
 - Unbelievers will not fully understand what is being revealed to the Believer ... They CAN’T
- **“The eyes of your hearts...”** –
 - This enlightenment is received in the “heart” – the “New Creation” which Believers receive
 - It does not “start” in the mind... But is received there as the Believers **“renew their minds”** to the knowledge of God...
- **“So that you may know...”** – “to come to a full understanding “ –
 - the word is in a **“Perfect” tense** meaning it starts at a certain place and is meant to be continually increasing...”
 - The “realities” that follow are ONLY understood thru this process
 - Paul’s prayer is that it “start” and continue...