

PRAYING POWERFUL PRAYERS PART II
EPHESIANS 1:15-23 & 3:13-21
JANUARY 14-15, 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Last week we taught the Lord's Prayer in John 17.
- This week we will cover two prayers in the book of Ephesians Paul prayed:
 1. "That you might know" - 1:15–23
 2. "That you might be" - 3:13–21
- The first is for spiritual insight, the second for spiritual power.
- Ephesians 1:15-19, "...¹⁷I 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. 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."

I. PAUL'S REQUESTS

- That God may give you spiritual understanding (1:17–18a).
- That you might know the hope of His calling (1:18b).
- That you might know the riches of His inheritance (1:18c).
- That you might know the surpassing greatness of His power (1:19–23).

II. SHEDDING LIGHT ON LIFE

- Four requests - "prayer for enlightenment," photizo = shed light on something
- The inability to see and understand spiritual things is not the fault of the eyes or mind, but of the heart.
- The eyes of the heart must be opened by the Spirit of God.

III. KNOWING GOD

- That they might know God (Revelation of Him) (1:17b).
 - Ignorance of God leads people into chaos.
- That we might know God's calling (1:18a).
 - We have been "called out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).
- That we might know God's riches (1:18b).
- That we might know God's power (1:19–23).

IV. EPHESIANS 3:14-21

- The first prayer is for enlightenment; the second is for empowering.
- This is all about laying hold of...taking possession of all that is yours.
- 3:14-16 - He is kneeling.
- Paul is relentless about the power of the Spirit working in people. Acts 1:8 & Luke 4
- His work is always...the inside...the "inner man."
- 3:17 – "So that Christ may dwell in your hearts...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love..."
 - Three verbs...dwell, rooted and grounded.
- 3:18 - "...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."
 - "Comprehend" – kata-lambano – literally lay hold of." Take hold of something...
- 3:19 - "Filled with all the fullness of God"
 - An empty life is disappointing and dangerous.
- 3:20–21 – "Now unto Him that is able to do far more abundantly... beyond all that we ask or think..."

CLOSE

- The power of Christ, like the love of Christ, is beyond human understanding or measurement.
- This is the kind of power you and I need.
- James 4:2, "...You have not because you ask not."