

Series: The Wealth and Walk of the Christian  
"That They Might Know" # 4  
Eph. 1:15-23  
7-23-17 Sun AM

1. What do you think is the most important prayer you could pray for a fellow believer? Their health or material blessings? We can learn a lot from the prison prayers of Paul. He prayed for the spiritual over the physical.

2. After having shared their blessings [vs. 3-14], Paul prays that these believers might fully understand their blessings.  
"That they might Know."

First Paul gives us the two reasons for his prayer. In vs. 15-16 we see two marks of a real Christian- faith in Jesus, and love for the saints.

He thanked the Lord for their faith in Jesus. We are saved by faith, we live by faith, and we die by faith.

He thanked the Lord for their love for the saints. This love was not a conditional love, not a discriminating love, but a love for all the saints.

Faith brought salvation and love demonstrated their transformed life.

**Q-** What four requests should we pray for other believers? [v.17]. This is not your usual Sunday prayer.

**I. We might know spiritual understanding [vs. 17-18a].**

1. Our greatest need is to understand spiritual truth. (3 thoughts)

We can't put the Word of God to work in our lives till we know what the Word teaches observation, interpretation, and application.

We can't be enabled to obey until we know what we are to believe. Our greatest need is enlightenment or spiritual understanding.

Proper understanding of divine truth does not depend on our intellect, but our hearts. **Why?**

2. These spiritual truths are spiritually discerned.

Turn to **1 Cor. 2:14-16**

**BBC says, "Revelation** deals with the imparting of knowledge; **wisdom** has to do with the proper use of it in our lives. The apostle is not thinking of knowledge in general but of the specific **knowledge of Him**. He wants the believers to have a deep, spiritual, and experimental **knowledge** of God—a **knowledge** that cannot be gained by intellectual ability, but only by the gracious ministry of the Spirit.

We should pray that God would not only open spiritual understanding for the lost, but spiritual understanding for believers so they can grow and fully understand their blessings (vs. 3-14).

## **II. We might know the hope of his calling [v.18b].**

1. Our hope depends not on our goodness but his grace, because of our being chosen by God and given these spiritual blessings by grace (Eph. 1:4-13).

This hope here is full assurance and confidence in the coming of Jesus. The return of Jesus is not a “hope so” or “wishful thinking” but assurance of future realities.

Hope speaks of the future while faith speaks of the present. Hope deals with the future aspect of our salvation. “Christ in you the hope of glory” or “The Blessed Hope.”

We have been called out, called to, and will be called up!

What is it that we are to know?

### **I. Spiritual Understanding [vs. 17-18a].**

### **II. The hope of his calling [v.18b].**

### **III. The Riches of his Inheritance [v.18c].**

1. We have an inheritance in Christ, and we are an inheritance to Christ.

**Eph. 1:11** It is His calling and his inheritance. The Son is the heir and we are joint heirs. Appropriate your blessings!

2. No need to search for something more, there is no more to be given. We have it all now.

He says that you might know, not that you might receive.

## **IV. We Might Know His power [vs. 19-23].**

1. Christ won the victory over sin, death, the world, and Satan. We don't fight for victory but from victory. These blessings are only for the saints [vs. 1-2].

2. Paul uses 3 synonyms to emphasize God's power in empowering his children [v.19].

1. *Power*- from which we get dynamite. We receive it all when saved.

3. Three manifestations of God's power in Christ [vs. 20-23].

Resurrection of Christ [v.20].

Ascension of Christ [v.21].

Placed all things under his feet [v.22a].

Head over the church [v.22b], as He manifests his glory in and thru the church.

**Con:**

Paul does not pray for more power, but they might be aware of the power they already possess.

We have power to witness because the gospel is the power.

I pray for you and myself that we might know:

I. Spiritual Understanding

II. The hope of his calling

III. The riches of his Inheritance

IV. His Power

Rom. 1:16