

**Ephesians 1: 15-18; “The Spirit of Wisdom & Revelation”, Message # 6 in a series  
entitled – “The Exceeding Greatness of His Power”, a Bible Study  
prepared by Pastor Paul Rendall on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019,  
for those gathered at his home.**

The experiential truth being related here by the apostle Paul in verses 15-21 is meant to build upon what he has said to us in verses 13 and 14. He begins with the word “therefore” in verse 15 pointing us back to what he had said before about these believers having had the experience of coming to know the Lord, because “having believed” in Christ, they were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. This being sealed “with” the Spirit, I said to you, is the Lord giving the believer assurance that Christ was really theirs. This sealing brings the believer to understand that the Holy Spirit is there in their life permanently. He is there to teach them how to live their Christian life in accordance with the truth of the word of God. When you first believe, the sealing with the Holy Spirit is your guarantee of having possession of all the blessings of eternal life, in having Him. These blessings will most certainly be conveyed to you over the course of your lifetime until the redemption of the purchased possession; that is, your spirit being made perfect at the time of your death, and your being glorified by God at the time of the resurrection of the righteous dead at the last Day of the world.

Now, this evening, we hear Paul saying to us that he would not cease to pray for the believers in Ephesus; he would not cease to give thanks for them, making mention of them in his prayers. It is what he specifically prays for, which will be the focus of our study tonight. It is 1<sup>st</sup> of all – A prayer that the Father would give to them a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. It is 2<sup>nd</sup> – A prayer that they would know what is the hope of God’s calling them in salvation. Paul is saying that both the Christians in that day, and the Christians in this day need these things if we are to become all that God would have us to become in terms of living to His glory, and not live our lives simply to ourselves. Let us humble ourselves to receive these profound truths.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Paul prays that the Father of glory would give to them a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.** (verses 15-17)

“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened...” Let it be understood clearly by us now, that there is a very real spiritual experience in a person’s coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ, as their Savior and Lord, which is established by the Holy Spirit Himself. It is not merely an intellectual assent to the doctrines of the gospel or the word of God. It is not just “making a decision” to receive and follow the Lord, although choosing to receive Christ and His finished work is an essential part of your coming to know the Lord.

It is, most importantly, that you have received the Holy Spirit when you believed, and you know His precious working and influences taking place in your life. It is His working in your life which proves to you beyond a shadow of a doubt that you belong to Him and that He will continue to confirm your salvation to you. The fact that you have been sealed means that the Spirit will be working with you to lead you, to change you into the image of Christ, and to guide you all the way to glory, perfecting you in your character and transforming you more into the image of Christ, in according with true knowledge which is found in the Scriptures. This is what Paul is praying for, for the saints in Ephesus.

It is that God the Father, the Father of glory, would grant this spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ would be theirs. And it is the knowledge of Christ that a

true Christian must grow up into. What is required unto a greater knowledge of Christ is the spirit of wisdom and revelation being given unto them. And the major human means to this great end which is aimed at, is having wise and knowledgeable Christian people praying for you specifically in their prayers that you would come to this greater wisdom and revelation of the glory of what God the Father has done and is doing for you and in you, through His ordaining in relation to your specific experience, a greater revelation of wisdom and understanding of the glory of knowing Christ and walking with Christ by means of communion with the Triune God.

The apostle Paul says here that he had not ceased to give thanks for the saints at Ephesus, making mention of them in his prayers. And evidently, the foremost thing that he prayed for, was this thing that we are talking about now; that they would be given the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ. Let us understand that it is the particular Office of God the Father to give glory; to ordain to show forth to His saints the excellence of His wisdom in His forming the whole plan of our salvation, and every experience of the glory of Christ that each of us will personally have. This involves His communicating to each of His saints all of the specific revelation of wisdom and understanding in the knowledge of Himself that will fulfill His purpose in relation to their particular life. When the Father gives this revelation of glory, He gives exactly what He knows will be useful to promote the glory of the Triune God; that is, a spirit of wisdom and understanding to better understand Him, His will and His ways.

Here, the apostle prays that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, may give this blessing. God the Father is the God of our Lord Jesus Christ in the sense of His humanity, and more specifically to our purpose, the glorified humanity of His Son. Paul's prayer is that we might have greater illumination upon this grand doctrine of what He has done in giving us His Son to be our Savior. It will be the best possible situation for us if we can be brought to see our need of greater understanding in relation to the Scriptures and know greater revelation concerning His plans for us in Christ – To transform us into His blessed image and to glorify us together with Him. This is the spirit of wisdom; to compare Scripture with Scripture and by praying to have the eyes of our understanding enlightened, that we would truly apprehend more of God's glory and how He will help us to behold more of how He would transform us into those who please Him in our walk with Him.

Turn with me over to John chapter 14, verses 21-26 – “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.” “And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” “Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, ‘Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us and not to the world?’ “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’ “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.” “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.” “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

Now, you can see here that it is the person who has God's commandments and is most decidedly interested in keeping them, that is the person who loves Christ. And Jesus said to His own disciples that it would be to the those who love Christ that the Father would love them as well. He would give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of His Son. They already knew the Father through Christ, but now they were promised that the Father and the Son would come and make their home with them there in their hearts by their sending the Holy Spirit. This was a further manifestation which was being promised to them in this giving of the Holy Spirit, than they had so far had. He would teach them all things and bring to their remembrance all that He had said to them. This is how they would be able to write down the gospels and the know how to write the rest of the New Testament Scriptures. They already had

had the Holy Spirit there with them, in their lives, but there would be a fuller manifestation of the Spirit's working given to them which is here described as the Father and the Son "making their abode with them". In other words, they would come to have a deeper more meaningful communion with God and with Christ because they would be receiving greater wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. They would be given the spirit of wisdom and revelation in a greater sense than they had ever experienced thus far. And so we should understand that this activity of praying for ourselves and others that the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ would be given to us by the Father of glory is the very basis of our coming to have greater communion and deeper more meaningful fellowship with God the Father and the Son.

But what about those who have not really been showing forth their love for the Father and the Son by loving God and keeping His commandments? Well, if you will turn over with me to Revelation 3, verses 14-21 you will find the answer to this. "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.'" "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.'" "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing', and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked – I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.'" "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

Now, these believers in Laodicea already had the Spirit; that is, those among them who were true Christians. But many of them had fallen into being so lukewarm in the way that they lived their lives, that they were neither hot nor cold in Christ's sight. They were not so much living for Christ, as they were for the world, and it made our Lord sick. He had to rebuke them. Verse 19 – "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten." "Therefore be zealous and repent." He said this out of love for them. But when He says this, you will notice that He is standing at the door of their hearts, knocking and calling for them to open to Him. And if they will open to Him, He is offering to give to them the spirit of wisdom and understanding in His willingness to come in to them and spiritually dine with them. Yes, He would have to have serious dealings with them, and yet He will also offer to have sweet communion with him in the process of their learning to overcome the world, their flesh, and the Devil. In verse 21, He says – "To him who overcomes, I will grant to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." You see here, that this is how even a backslidden Christian can be brought around right and go, as Paul says in Romans 1: 17 – "From faith to faith", and learn to glorify God by receiving the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Paul prays that they would know what is the hope of God's calling them in salvation.** (verse 18)

He asks of God that they would be given a "spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...." Charles Hodge says – "Instead of *διανοίας* understanding, the great majority of the ancient manuscripts and versions read *καρδίας*, or heart, which is no doubt the true reading". (End of quote) We should see from verse 18 that God's inheritance is found in the saints. It does not say that God's inheritance is heaven or the blessings of salvation. It is found "in" the saints. (*ἐν τοῖς ἁγίοις*) Therefore, it behooves us to come to know, what the hope of what His calling us, is. It is to know

that the riches of the glory of God's inheritance is found in the saints; and that therefore we, who are His saints, should live to His glory. We should live in such a righteous and holy way that we will attempt to see as many other people as we can, come to see, and to have, and to know the reality of these riches of Christ's grace.

Have your eyes been opened to these profound truths; to realize that there is a certain hope which relates to your having been most certainly and effectually called by God to be a partaker of Christ? The hope of your calling is to make progress in holiness; to pursue complete righteousness and holiness as a result of the tremendous working of the Triune God taking place in your life. He is continually supplying you with grace. He is giving you the opportunity and the ability, by His grace, to become mature and steadfast in your faith as you rightly respond to all that He has given to you in grace and truth. You do this, by rendering to Him a sincere obedience to His word. The hope of His calling is that every one of His saints by faith, looks forward to the time when they shall be made perfect in holiness; that someday when they die, someday when they see Christ face to face, they shall be perfect in every way.

Look over at 1<sup>st</sup> John 3, verses 1-3. "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" "Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him." "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." So the riches of the glory of God's inheritance is found in the saints; those who will glorify Him by purifying themselves because they have their hope in God that He will give them help to them to glorify Him while they are still upon the earth.

In this regard, it behooves each of us to pray the words of Psalm 16, verses 1-6. "Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust." "O my soul, you have said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You.'" "As for the saints who are on the earth, 'They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.'" The saints are called here, by David – "God's excellent ones, in whom is all his delight." We should therefore see them in the same way that he saw them, as His excellent ones. They are excellent ones, not in themselves but because of the grace of Christ imputes to them and imparts to them day by day. We should therefore determine to glorify God while we are here upon this earth by doing good to His saints. And in doing good to the saints, others who are not saints may see as well.

In Matthew 5: 16, Christ says – "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." In other words, pray that God would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, so that you would know, and that others would know, what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. That is, that we would be able to glorify God in this way; that we would see what God's great calling of us is. Our great calling to holiness is what we do in relation to God Himself, but it is best seen in relation to how we treat other people around us, and the good works that we do in relation to people around us.