

Ephesians 1:17–21

<sup>17</sup> 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,

<sup>18</sup> 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,

<sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

<sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

<sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

## **“God our Father” Ephesians 1:17**

INTRO:

On Father’s Day we think about fathers. The father more important than any other is God the Father. In **Ephesians 1:17** we find that God is described as **“the Father of Glory.”** This Father’s Day, we will explore this description of our God and Father. Our outline is:

***I. The Father of Glory - Ephesians 1:17***

***II. Glory***

***I. The Father of Glory - Ephesians 1:17***

A. As we come to **Ephesians 1:17**, Paul is making a specific prayer request for the Ephesians. Before detailing his request he reminded the Ephesians Whom he prayed to.

**Ephesians 1:15-17**     ***“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.”***

B. The source of the wisdom and illumination Paul prayed for the Ephesians is the Father of Glory. What does this mean and why does Paul describe God as glorious here?

***II. Glory***

A. The concept of glory is not an easy one to quantify. The chief Hebrew word for glory is ***Kabod*** and its essential meaning is ***“weight or heaviness.”***

1. In the days of both the Old Testament and the New Testament, the value of money was determined by its weight, the word, ***“shekel,”*** is a measurement of weight. The weight of something spoke of its essential value or worth.

2. When ***Kabod*** is used of men it speaks of his glory in terms of his wealth, power, position, or character. For example, when Joseph revealed himself to his brothers he gave them instructions as what to convey to Jacob in

**Genesis 45:13** ***“So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here.”***

3. When this word is applied to God we find that it refers of much more than just possessions, power, position, and character. ***“Glory”*** speaks of God’s holiness, beauty, and perfections. All that makes God, God, is His glory.

4. Remember the request that Moses made in **Exodus 33:18**? ***“Please show me Your glory.”*** Moses wanted to see God as He really is. Sadly, that was not possible. God told him in response.

**v.19** ***“Then [the LORD] said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’***

But He said,

**vs.20-23** ***‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’ And the Lord said, ‘Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.’***

C. In the New Testament the chief word for glory is ***doxa***, which means ***“brightness, brilliance, splendor, radiance.”*** It also speaks of giving praise or recognition to someone or something.

1. Paul used this word five times in **Ephesians chapter 1**. In **1:3-6** we read how that the salvation that we receive in Christ alone demonstrates his glorious grace.

2. In **1:11-12** we read how that God did all the wonderful things involved in our salvation for one reason.

***“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will in order that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”***

God did this so that we by our very existence might cause others to praise God for His goodness and grace to us. This is again a recognition of the outworking of God's perfections and attributes on our behalf.

3. We read in **verses 13 and 14** how this salvation that God has worked out for us is secure.

***“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”***

Lest we think that we do not have a part in this unfolding drama of redemption, the Apostle Paul adds the **12th verse** to underline our human responsibility in this process. We have to believe. When we believe, God puts His seal on us. He gives us a down payment that guarantees our claim on the eternal blessings He promised us in Christ. All of this again is so that His glory might be seen and praised. We catch a glimpse of the wonder of who our God is in these things that He has done for us. We do Him a colossal disservice when we do not acknowledge what He has done!

4. The fourth time God's glory is mentioned is in the **17th verse**, our text. This verse describes how our God, Who has done so much for us, is our heavenly Father. He is a Father Who is always displaying Who He is in His dealings with us. He is a Father of glory Who shows us His grace, longsuffering, holiness, and love in the answering of our prayers too!

### ***What do we do with this knowledge about our God who is the Father of Glory?***

1. First, we must recognize that all that God has done, in calling us into this relationship in which we call Him Father, is all of grace. We did not deserve the least of His favors. Still, God the Father sent forth His Son to be born a babe in Bethlehem, to live a sinless life, and to die in our place on the cross. He did all of this so that we might be saved and so that He might be glorified.

2. Second, in view of this, we need to do what the Apostle Paul commanded the Corinthians to do.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** ***“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”***

We should aim our lives at glorifying our Father of glory! If the Lord were to grade your life, what grade would you get?

Hymn #4 *How Great Thou Art*