

Wisdom and Revelation
Ephesians 1:17

Wisdom and Revelation

What is the most important issue upon which you should pray for another believer? Wisdom and Knowledge!

Ephesians 1:15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,

Ephesians 1:16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him or revelation in true knowledge of Him.

We now come to Paul praying to God for these believers. So what is it that Paul prays for God to give to these believers? As we will see, it is for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to give wisdom and true knowledge.

What is going on in verses 16 and 17?

Paul is continually giving thanksgiving and asking in prayers that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may keep on giving the believers the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that they may know Him better.

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Paul keeps on offering prayers of thanksgiving. Now, when you offer thanksgiving to God, what exactly do you ask Him to receive or for to be thankful?

that...the God of our Lord Jesus
may give you the Holy Spirit of wisdom
and revelation in the true knowledge of Him

I want you to pay close attention to Paul's prayer to God the Father for believers. He prays the same principle of prayer that Jesus Christ prays to God the Father.

John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another parakletos, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth

Both Paul and Jesus pray that believers will be empowered by the Holy Spirit that they will have wisdom and true knowledge of God. What do you pray for in your prayers to God concerning your own desire? I hope you learn to pray for knowledge and wisdom of God.

Verse 17 **that the God** This of course refers to the Father who is the author of the predesigned plan.

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here is the executor of God's predesigned plan; Lord refers to His Deity, and Jesus is a reference to His humanity, meaning *the deliverer or rescuer or savior*. Then Paul emphasizes Him as the *anointed one or the Messiah*, therefore, is His title and name.

The Father of Glory. This refers to Glory, splendor, or radiance. The word is used 5 times in chapter one itself and three times in chapter 3.

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- 1: 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace;
- 1:12 to the praise of His glory
- 1:14 to the praise of His glory
- 1:17 the Father of glory
- 1:18 the riches of the glory

Defining the glory of God

1. Many issues are defined using comparisons.
2. For example: glory is defined by honor, by achievements or magnificence, but one may be more excellent than another. Take the idea of beauty, how would you define something or someone as beautiful?
3. God created mankind to gravitate to Glory or to Beauty therefore mankind gravitates to God, to His glory, to His Beauty.
4. Inevitably all glory is related to God the Father, to His plan and to *His grace* and gravitated to His Son.
5. As a believer grows in the Word of God, he seeks to see the glory of the Lord.

Psalm 27:4 One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple.

6. Although we may not know how to define His glory we should strive to His glory.

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Psalm 29:1 Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of the mighty, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Psalm 29:2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in holy array.

Or another way of wording this:

1 Chronicles 16:29 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name

Psalm 50:1 The Mighty One, God, the Lord, has spoken And summoned the earth, from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Psalm 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shone.

7. Oh, to the glory of eternity:

Isaiah 4:2 On that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel

Isaiah 28:5 In that day the Lord of armies will become a beautiful crown And a glorious diadem to the remnant of His people;

8. Let's close this on the glory and beauty of humans.

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1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Beauty of a woman is spoken of in the Word of God.

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

1 Timothy 2:9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or expensive apparel,

1 Timothy 2:10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

1 Peter 3:3 Your adornment must not be merely the external—braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or putting on apparel;

1 Peter 3:4 but it should be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

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that...the God of our Lord Jesus
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and revelation in the true knowledge of Him

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ Here is the executor of God's predesigned Plan; Lord refers to His Deity, and Jesus refers to His humanity, meaning the deliver or rescuer or savior. Then Paul emphasizes Him as the anointed one or the Messiah therefore is His title and name.

The Father of Glory. This refers to Glory, splendor, or radiance.

May give. The Greek word refers to the total being referred to here and the ingredients of the wisdom being mentioned.

May give to you the Spirit. Here we have two very important points in this phrase. First lets look at the Spirit.

Is this referring to the Holy Spirit or the human spirit?

This of course does not refer to the human spirit, for the human does not possess a spirit of wisdom so it must be referring to the Holy Spirit. Also the expression 'a spirit of revelation' does not signify a human quality. According to Harold Hoener there are at least seven reasons which indicate this is the Holy Spirit rather than the human spirit, some of them involving technical Greek grammar. But what about Jesus Christ? In John chapter 14 Jesus is already asking the Father to give every believer the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit? This is simply dealt with in that the Holy Spirit gives special disclosure to every believer at different times in their life as they live close to the Spirit.

Here in this one verse we have all three members of the Godhead. Here we have the prayer by Jesus Christ and the same principle of the Apostle Paul. Jesus prays that the believer receive the indwelling Holy Spirit

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which is the Spirit of Truth. Paul prays that the indwelling Holy Spirit be manifest in the believer as wisdom and revelation. He prays to God the Father, of our personal relationship with Jesus, and that we may receive from the Holy Spirit. This is a powerful prayer!

may give to you the Spirit. What is important here is the rare ‘optative’ *may give*, so the Holy Spirit is already present but that every person does not have the working inside them of the Holy Spirit’s wisdom.

A word on the optative from the Dana & Mantey Greek Grammar: “The optative is the mood of strong contingency; the mood of possibility. It contains no definite anticipation of realization, but merely presents the action as conceivable. Hence it is one step farther removed from reality than the subjunctive.”

the Spirit of wisdom. not the wisdom of man but wisdom of the Holy Spirit. In John 14 and 16 Jesus Christ called Him **the Spirit of truth**. We have studied on *wisdom* in verse 8 of Ephesians chapter 1.

Here is an explanation of this verse from Harold Hoener which may be of some help in understanding it. The view he is suggesting is that the Holy Spirit is the “spirit” mentioned and not the human spirit.

“Yet two major problems attend this view. First, how can Paul pray for God to give them the Holy Spirit when he has already been imparted, and second, how can these genitives (wisdom and revelation) be categorized? To answer the initial question, the second one must first be addressed. It is best to consider that these genitives denote characteristic quality. The Spirit is characterized as one who gives insight and unveils God’s hidden mysteries. The genitives denote the special manifestations of the Spirit. Regarding the first problem, Paul is not praying that they be given the Holy Spirit for he has already been imparted to them. Rather, he is praying for a specific manifestation of God’s mysteries as a result of the

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Holy Spirit's revelation. However, the request does not end here. Paul has a specific objective for the Spirit who gives insight and unveils."

1. There is the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God. We are concerned with wisdom from God, namely God the Holy Spirit. Every believer is inwardly indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
2. But people, please know of many of the ministries of the Holy Spirit. We are all set as one in Christ by salvation. But the Holy Spirit comes and works with each believer. He will teach individuals the truth of the Scripture.
3. He will disclose to us Jesus Christ.
4. He will give to believers such things as the divine nine of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. He will guide believers by the plan of God, where He will guide the believer where the Father desires us to go. When we receive salvation at faith in Jesus, and even though we have the Indwelling of the Spirit, we do not have a human spirit of revelation and truth of wisdom so it is the Holy Spirit who renders us with *wisdom and revelation*. We are given this wisdom and revelation by God the Holy Spirit.
5. The question comes, why or when does the Holy Spirit gives to us this wisdom and revelation? There are two very important passages. One is

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, (this is wisdom and knowledge) not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

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Hebrews 6:2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and about the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

Hebrews 6:3 And this we will do, if God permits.

Now let's see

Col. 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, (this would be the work of the Holy Spirit when the believer is continually filled in the Holy Spirit.)

Now in the next two verses Paul prays for the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

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This continues in the prayer by Paul. Please learn that we are to pray for one another in regards to different circumstances in our lives.

First note two parts of our being created by God. We have noted the hearing of our ears. We have to listen from our ears to the message of the gospel. Now we can thank God for the miracle of the eyes of our heart. From our ears and eyes we become aware of learning God's plan for our lives.

It is so interesting in what Paul is speaking. He uses the eyes to draw attention to the perception of our eyes to see what is important in our hearts. Even here, the heart is used to draw attention to the thinking in our brain.

This is an unusual prayer. Paul uses our eyes to see from our hearts so that we could think carefully what God desires us to learn, what God is saying to us. The eyes of your heart, means, you open your 'spiritual eyes' to the thinking of your spiritual life and seeing all that God has provided for you.

Our 'mines eyes' are to see the way of God.

Paul prays that they learn of the following things.

That the eyes of understanding will be greatly enlightened. For the more light of the Holy Spirit the better you can see; and the more you learn.

Knowledge of Divine Revelation

to help in defining *revelation*—'The Complete Biblical Library'

1. In Ephesians 1:17 Paul is praying for God to give us the Holy Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.

Revelation is an interesting word in the New Testament, to reveal, to uncover, to disclose or to manifest. This introduces the importance

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of Biblical divine revelation. There is so much for us to learn from *revelation*.

2. This introduces God's revelation to man. God desires for mankind to learn so much through revelation. In the Church Age God has revealed himself through His Son, Jesus. Notice the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Hebrews 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world.

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

Revelation 1:2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, everything that he saw.

3. The '*revelation*' about Jesus Christ, His words, His acts, His life, His death, His resurrection from the death and session at His Right hand are all dynamic to the history of Jesus Christ. This is one reason why we come back to the study of the Word of God, day by day, week by week, month by month to see of the Revelation of Jesus, to learn more and more of Jesus. Add to this the teaching

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from the Holy Spirit created to us new *revelations* throughout the Word of God. As we study in the New Testament we learn from eternity past what was hidden and now is disclosed to us. And the hidden is now *revealed* to us, of things hidden yet to come to us in the future. And other secrets *revealed* to us are those *revelations* of God the Father revealed only by Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son determines to reveal Him.

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

John 12:44 Now Jesus cried out and said, “The one who believes in Me, does not believe only in Me, but also in Him who sent Me.

John 12:45 And the one who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

4. Only by revelations of the Son, can we know God the Father.

John 14:7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

John 14:8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

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John 14:9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

My friends here is the reason we study the Word of God—to have Him revealed personally to us and also revealed to us the Father.

5. Jesus Christ *reveals* the Father whom He causes to be revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 11:27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son determines to reveal Him.

6. It is so important for us to know that we do not learn about God the Father from our knowledge here on earth but only as revealed to us by God Himself.

Matthew 16:17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, (Peter) because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

7. It is so important that we understand something about where we exist in the Church Age. All that is *revealed* in the New Testament is Jesus Christ Himself.

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But it is so important to grasp and understand what we learn about and from Jesus in the New Testament. Note the comparison of two very important concepts *revealed* to us through Jesus.

First:

Matthew 5:17 “Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

And added to this

John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

And Jesus declared that He Himself is truth.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

And just before John 1:17 Jesus declare Himself in

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth

8. In our study of Ephesians 1:17 about wisdom and true Knowledge in

Colossians 2:3 in whom (Jesus Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

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The Father *revealed* His Son to Paul, himself.

Galatians 1:16 to reveal His Son (that is Jesus) in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

9. Now to fully grasp, *revelation* of Jesus Christ will be fulfilled at the *revelation* of Jesus at His return.

Acts 1:11 and they said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Paul teaches us that they were waiting for the *revelation* of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

To know that we all wait for the *revelation* of Jesus, never forget

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

I hope so deeply that everyone of you are enriched by these *revelations* of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Add to these:

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1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is, Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come

Don't let anyone tell you that you will have to be part of the Tribulation; for Jesus will come and take us home out of the wrath.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

We have seen of His revealing here on earth, of His departure from earth and how we now wait to be *revealed* with Him.

10. For we live here on earth and why we come time after time to study the word of God and live by faith in Jesus Christ is told to us by

1 Peter 1:7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Peter tells us to trust firmly in the Word of God, for the coming of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare (1) your minds for action, (2) keep sober in spirit, (3) set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.