

**Wisdom and Revelation**  
**Ephesians 1:17**

## **Wisdom and Revelation**

Instead of being so occupied with the world, spend your time on Wisdom from the Word of God and True Knowledge.

Time is getting close for the Rapture in the Church, so spend your time on Wisdom and True Knowledge and telling others about the coming of Christ.

We have spent a lot of time on the first 16 verses of Ephesians 1. It is time to move on in chapter 1.

People, it is so important to study and learn the Word of God, for the more we learn, the more we love God and the more we love Him, the more we want to learn.

**And the more we learn, the more we love Him.**

So, I pray that more and more, desire to come to church to worship with one another to learn more of God and of Christ and love God and love Christ more and more. Due to the control of Jesus Christ over history, the place of America is moving away from this nation, who once loved God and Jesus Christ.

I pray that now the predominant attitude in America is being replaced in this nation, by a love and loyalty to Jesus Christ by believers of Jesus Christ.

That God, the all glorious Father, gracious and loving Father of His Son the Messiah, our Savior and friend, he has become our Redeemer and He has now enriched us in Wisdom and true Knowledge.

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

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**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 a Spirit of wisdom and of 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.

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

**that...the God** of our Lord Jesus, the Father of Glory  
**may give** to you **the Holy Spirit of wisdom**

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**and** of 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 the 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**. Here is hope that each day you glorify His glory. This refers to Glory, splendor, or radiance. The word is used 5 times in chapter one itself and three times in chapter 3.

- 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

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***Defining the glory of God***

1. Many issues are defined using comparisons throughout the Bible.
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 come to His glory.

**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:

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**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.

**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.

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**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.**

Back to Ephesians 1:17

that...the God of our Lord Jesus  
may give you the Holy Spirit of wisdom  
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 deliverer or rescuer or savior. Then Paul

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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 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!

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

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We now come to the recognition of wisdom. We have come upon this rich word of wisdom in verse 8 In all wisdom and insight the Holy Spirit. This is a powerful prayer!