

The Knowledge of God

The center of the Spirit of Wisdom, not the wisdom of man but wisdom of the Holy Spirit, is the issue we are looking at in Ephesians 1:17.

Paul is in prayer in Ephesians 1:15 and following:

Ephesians 1:15 ...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 of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

We are centering on wisdom from the Holy Spirit.

In John chapters 14 and 16, Jesus Christ called Him the Spirit of truth.

Here is wisdom from the Holy Spirit

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 the many ministries of the Holy Spirit. We are all 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

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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 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,

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 lets see

Colossians 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

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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*

This continues in the prayer by Paul. Please learn that we are to pray regarding 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 of 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'

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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.

First: 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 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 make known 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 death and seated 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 from the Holy Spirit created for us new revelations throughout the Word of God. As we study the New Testament, we learn things that were hidden from eternity past and are now revealed to us. And hide are revealed to us of things hidden yet to come to us in the future. And other secrecies 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.

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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.”

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

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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 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.

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.

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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 declared 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.

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.”

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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:

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

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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 tell 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.

Now lets grasp the message in verses 15-17

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 you a Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in true knowledge of Him

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This centers on Paul's prayer for these believers. If we look at Colossians 1 we will see 7 prayer petitions by Paul.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that

(1) you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Colossians 1:10

(2) so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,

(3) to please Him in all respects,

(4) bearing fruit in every good work and

(5) increasing in the knowledge of God;

Colossians 1:11

(6) strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might,

(7) for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

Here are 7 petitions or requests you can pray for one another. You should spend a great deal of time in praying for others.

Notice, pray that others (and yourself) to be filled with knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding and increasing in the knowledge of God. Then note the work of the Holy Spirit. *That you walk in a manner worthy of the Lord*, which is walking in the power and

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leading of the Holy Spirit. Then in the power of the Holy Spirit you please Him in all respects and by His power *bearing fruit in every good work*. By the Holy Spirit you allow Him to increase in the knowledge of God. And of course by the power of the Holy Spirit you are strengthened with all power (of the Holy Spirit) and allowing the Holy Spirit to attain in you all steadfastness and patience.

Here in Colossians 1:9 in the first petition in Paul's prayer, it started off with *they will be filled with the knowledge of His will*

OK, here is our rich word *epignosis* this is one of the richest words for knowledge. "because it expresses a more thorough participation in the acquiring of knowledge on the part of the learner."

This word refers to knowledge that strongly influences one's life. There is knowledge that will get you on Jeopardy, there is knowledge that will carry you at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and this is the knowledge that Paul is referring to here.

I like what the scholar R. C. H. Lenski said about this phrase:

"that there would be no holes in their knowledge of his will, so that they would not substitute anything else for any part of it."

Here is where you have to decide for yourself:

Is the Word of God sufficient for your needs?

Or

Do you need to go outside of the His Word for answers?

Is Christ sufficient for your Salvation?

Is the Word of God sufficient for your life?

Colossians 1:9 ...With the Knowledge of His will...

This is not referring to Knowledge of the Will of God for the ages, although this is included, this is referring to the will of God for your life as a member of the body of Christ. God has a plan, a will for every born again believer. This is a knowledge that transforms your hearts and minds, and brings you into an intimate relationship with God.

The word knowledge is very important here. There are several Greek words for Knowledge. Lets look at a Greek Lexicon (The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary of the New Testament).

“This Greek word (*epignosis*) is more intense than *gnosis* knowledge, because it expresses a more thorough participation in the acquiring of Knowledge on the part of the learner.”

So the question is:

How does a believer receive increased Knowledge of God?

Simple:

By the increased learning of the Word of God from a Pastor-Teacher who teaches the Word of God.

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Christians across the board do not want to go to a church where the Word of God is taught verse-by-verse. They desire sermons that make them feel good. Sermons that cater to their individual problems. Friends, we have just 3 services a week, to worship in the study of the Word of God

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to increase in the knowledge God the Father and of Jesus Christ.

I wish we had some 6 services...Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and three on Sunday, but that just is not going to happen – anyway. It is so difficult to excite more of you to come on these three services. I do not know why!

But it is our responsibility to be ready ‘in season’ when more come and ‘out of season’ when few come to worship God. So let us look at a few passages that may wake up some to come and Worship God.

1. Let us start with Knowledge that everyone of you have and a knowledge that is increasing by natural process of living.

Genesis 2:9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

You are increasing in this knowledge all the time in the system of the world. You have to make an effort to increase in the Knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ.

First, you have to desire to increase in your Knowledge of Jesus Christ, then you have to get to where this knowledge is taught, then you have to (by Faith) be in the power of the Holy Spirit, so He will teach you more and more about Jesus Christ and God the Father.

2. God is the God of Knowledge, so if you are increasing in your knowing of God you are increasing in Knowledge.

**1 Samuel 2:3 “Boast no more so very proudly,
Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth;**

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For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.

Do you get it?

God weighs or judges every action we undertake. Action to come to church for the increase in Knowledge or the action to do something else
Another passage on God as the God of Knowledge:

Job 37:16 “Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one perfect in knowledge

People when you learn about God, you are learning perfect Knowledge. Think about the books we read, the videos we watch to increase our learning and yet right here is Knowledge of God, and that is perfect Knowledge.

We will continue here next Sunday. But today you can think about learning about God to know Him and to Worship Him and Glorify Him!