

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

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The Gospel Hour, Inc., Greenville, South Carolina

CHAPTER SIX -

PAUL PRAYS FOR THE BELIEVER, THAT HE WILL HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND POWER

Ephesians 1, verses 15-18

"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not 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 unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

You will notice that in all of Paul's letters to the different churches, he reminds them that he faithfully prays for them; but in this particular letter he does more than that. He enumerates the requests which he makes known to GOD in their behalf: That they might have wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of JESUS; that their eyes of understanding might be enlightened, that they might know "**what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.**"

Paul could not pray such a prayer as this in behalf of the Corinthians, because most of them were still living on milk . . . they were not strong enough Christians to receive the meat of the Word. Paul prays here for a spiritually minded group in Ephesus.

Notice verse 15 begins with the word "**wherefore**," thus connecting the prayer with what preceded it. In his petition, Paul is praying that GOD will reveal to the individual believers in Ephesus not only the doctrine concerning their redemption (that is, that GOD the Father, GOD the SON, and GOD the HOLY SPIRIT all had a part in redeeming them), but that they will also come into a personal knowledge and a personal experience, knowing the source and the secret of the power to live and walk daily as a believer should, since we are members of the Body of CHRIST.

In verse 16, Paul reminds these believers that he gives thanks for them in his prayers. He was thankful for a group such as the one in the church at Ephesus.

In verse 17 we find the key to Christian knowledge: "**REVELATION.**" in all of his letters Paul is very careful to make plain the fact that his message came by revelation - not by man, not through man, but from GOD by direct revelation. The Word of GOD consists, for the most part,

of knowledge which man cannot know nor receive except by revelation. If we understand the things of the past, if we look into the future, we must rely upon GOD to unveil deep spiritual truths to us as we yield to the HOLY SPIRIT, the Teacher of the Word of GOD (I John 2:27). The HOLY SPIRIT gives to us wisdom, knowledge and understanding - but only through revelation.

One phase of the ministry of the HOLY SPIRIT in this Dispensation of Grace is to reveal the deep things of GOD to spiritually minded believers. Study carefully John 16:12-15. There are many Christians who read the Bible - but there are few Christians who study the Bible. Almost anyone can read a chapter a day, and from that chapter learn things about JESUS, GOD, Heaven, hell . . . but to dig into the diamond mines and the gold mines, to find the unsearchable riches of the Word of GOD, we must be led by the HOLY GHOST, enlightened by the HOLY GHOST - and if we ever understand the deep things of GOD it must be through the revelation of the HOLY GHOST as we study.

In verse 18 we learn of the channel of Christian knowledge: AN ENLIGHTENED HEART. In the King James version we have, "**The eyes of your understanding being enlightened,**" and in the language of the Bible it is "the eyes of your heart" (the inner man) - not the natural eyes or mind, but the spiritual eyes. The eyes of the heart, of the inner man, are the organs of light, spiritually speaking until the HOLY SPIRIT has wrought His regenerating work in us, the eyes of the heart are blinded.

The person who has never been born again cannot know the things of GOD: "**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned**" (I Corinthians 2:14). But when the eyes of the inner man are opened through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT, we grow in knowledge and understanding of spiritual truths. There are many born again people who need to pray daily, and daily yield themselves to the HOLY SPIRIT, allowing the Spirit to open their eyes that they may see the great truths GOD has laid down in His Word concerning our present possession in CHRIST, and the things that lie ahead for those of us who are born again believers.

Please notice the last part of verse 18 and the first part of verse 19 - and you will see that Paul is not praying for spiritual insight and knowledge in order that the Ephesians might boast or brag about their spirituality; but he wants them to appreciate the blessings and the benefits they enjoy because of their redemption. The average believer is totally ignorant and unappreciative concerning his present spiritual possession.

Beloved, if you are born again, you are somebody, whether you have realized it or not! You are now a SON of GOD. You now possess the divine nature of GOD. In your bosom dwells the HOLY SPIRIT. You are led by the HOLY SPIRIT. Your citizenship is in Heaven. In JESUS you are somebody. To the spiritually minded believer, this does not puff one up, nor cause one to be proud. On the contrary, the more we learn about our spiritual possessions and privileges, the more humble we should become.

If you listen to people testify in a public meeting, you can always measure their spirituality by the testimony they give. Yes, sad but so, most Christians are totally ignorant concerning our position and our possession in the Lord JESUS.

Paul prays that they will understand "**the hope of His calling, and . . . the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.**" Paul wants all believers to comprehend the unspeakable preciousness and power of our redemption; the inheritance held in store for us; also the glory of it - and the riches of its glory.

It is the joy and the good pleasure of GOD to bless His children. At His right hand there are pleasures forevermore, and no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. If we seek first the kingdom of GOD and His righteousness, all these other things will be added unto us. If we can only realize the riches we possess now, we will not be such spiritual paupers, and we will appreciate much more the inheritance that lies ahead.

Verse 19: "**And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.**"

In this verse, Paul wants us to understand "**what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.**" Every born again child of GOD has within his bosom the power of Almighty GOD. We are kept by the power of GOD. Jesus does not redeem a soul - and then leave that soul alone to fight the warfare of faith.

Promises such as these encourage Christians to move on in the spiritual life:

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper" (Hebrews 13:5-6).

"I can do all things through CHRIST which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer (allow) you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God" (James 1:5).

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. NAY, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR Lord!" (Romans 8:35-39).

"WHAT SHALL WE THEN SAY TO THESE THINGS? IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?" (Romans 8:31).

When the believer discovers these promises and thousands of others just as precious, he will march on to victory in CHRIST JESUS, through the power of GOD. GOD's power is not only great - HIS POWER IS "EXCEEDING GREAT" . . . "**the exceeding greatness of His power.**"

As we go into the next verse you will note that this exceeding great power comes through the Lord JESUS CHRIST.

Verses 20-23: "**Which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.**"

In these verses we have the guarantee of these blessings to all believers, because they are wrought in CHRIST. All spiritual blessings are "**according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ.**" The Greek speaks of "manifested strength of His indwelling might." This "indwelling might" possessed by the Lord JESUS CHRIST was manifested in two ways:

(1) *Through His resurrection from the dead.* Jesus promised His followers He would rise from the dead the third day, and that is exactly what He did. That is the one outstanding fact that sets Him apart from and above all other great men in the religious realm. There have been men who founded great religions - and please notice I said "religions." For example, Confucius, Buddha, Mary Baker Eddy, Joseph Smith, Pastor Russell and others became head of great religious movements. They are dead and gone, and no one has seen them since. The resurrection of JESUS CHRIST proves that He is very GOD.

(2) *Through His exaltation to His present position at the right hand of GOD the Father.* How on this earth could anyone suggest that GOD's program of redemption could fail, with such power placed at our disposal? We have within our bosom the power of Almighty GOD, and if we as believers stagger and stumble and fall, it is our fault - not GOD's. God has not only provided redemption for the sinner, but also complete and total victory for the believer!

We learn in verses 21 and 22 that CHRIST has been exalted to a position of absolute, universal authority. He has been made "**the head over all things to the church, which is His body.**" This power, the exceeding great power, possessed by JESUS CHRIST is administered through His exalted person, and is administered from His exalted position in Heaven. He (the Exalted One) is the head of the church which is His body. We are members of His body, bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh (Ephesians 5:30). Therefore this exceeding great power is transmitted to us (the body) from the head (the Lord JESUS).

GOD is looking for believers who will commit themselves unto Him, and allow Him to enlighten their hearts so that they can see and know the spiritual power and privileges they enjoy in the redemption that is in CHRIST JESUS. GOD in regeneration becomes the author of faith in our heart, which faith makes us sons of GOD. GOD is the author of inner life, the new life, the new creation which dwells in the bosom of every believer; but He does not stop there: Because of our

redemption He becomes the controller of the motives and intents of the heart - (providing the believer will yield his heart into the hands of GOD). GOD inspires the heart, and makes provision spiritually and physically for the believer if the believer will only surrender fully and allow GOD to enlighten and direct him day by day.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

Wicked hands nailed Jesus to the Cross.

He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. All we like sheep have gone astray, but Jehovah laid on JESUS the iniquity of us all. Yes, JESUS was smitten of GOD and afflicted, that we might be saved. He was nailed to a Cross, He died, they buried Him; but GOD raised Him up from the dead and exalted Him at GOD's own right hand in the heavenlies. GOD has exalted JESUS far above all principality and power, might and dominion, above every name that is named - not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. GOD has exalted His SON far above any and all, in Heaven or in earth - or in the world to come! GOD has put all things under the feet of Jesus. GOD gave Him the position as head over all things to the church, "**which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.**" JESUS purchased the church at the tremendous price of Calvary (read Acts 20:28). JESUS is the head of the True Church (Ephesians 5:23). We are members connected to the head (Ephesians 5:30).

He is also the foundation of the New Testament church (I Corinthians 3:11). He is the author and the finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). We who are saved do not belong to an organization; we are connected to an organism - the Lord JESUS CHRIST.

~ end of chapter 6~

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