

A Prayer for Wisdom

“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, 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...” Ephesians 1:15-18

1. This is part of Paul’s longest recorded prayer in the New Testament.
2. This prayer is a petition to God for the Holy Spirit’s enrichment in our lives to enhance our wisdom and revelation in the knowledge we have of His word and plan for our lives.
3. “Therefore I also...” (vs. 15) is a transition between two prayers.
 - a. The first half of chapter one is a prayer for knowledge.
 1. We were chosen by God before the foundation of the world.
 2. We were predestined by God to live in fulfilment.
 3. We were accepted and always will be by God.
 4. We are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.
 5. We are overloaded with wisdom and good sense for daily life.
 6. God has already revealed His will to us.
 7. God has given us an inheritance which cannot be taken away.
 - b. His second prayer is for revelation and wisdom or application – doing the word of God to life.
 - c. The occasion for this prayer was the reports Paul heard of their continued spiritual growth. Spiritual growth should be reported and can be measured.
 1. We grow in faith toward God.
 2. We grow in love toward each other and those not saved.
4. Our spiritual growth should cause rejoice in and prayer in others (vs. 16).
 - a. Paul rejoiced over their spiritual growth in faith and love.
 - b. He gave thanks for them often.
 - c. He made “mention” in our prayers.
 - d. Paul prayed for many people and churches. God can catch a “mention” in our prayers.
 - e. Our life should be filled with much praise and come prayer.
5. He is the God of Jesus Christ and Father of glory (vs. 17).
 - a. Jesus is our glory, and we should become more like Him each day (John 17:22, 24, 2 Corinthians 3:18).

- b. The Spirit of wisdom and revelation is a ministry and a work of the Holy Spirit.
- c. Other titles given to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives:
 - 1. The Spirit of meekness (1 Corinthians 4:21).
 - 2. The Spirit of faith (2 Corinthians 4:13).
 - 3. The Spirit of truth (John 15:26).
 - 4. The Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4).
 - 5. The Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9).
- d. Wisdom and revelation come to us from the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).
- e. Paul prayed for an enlargement by the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the Ephesian saints.
- f. The Holy Spirit can only reveal and give wisdom to the knowledge we already have. Knowledge is up to us. Study to yourself approved to God.