

Remnant Life Church
May 18, 2025
Wisdom and Revelation to Know Him Better
Ephesians 1:16-20

The Apostle Paul is regarded as one of the premier early Christians

- His story is well known
- It is detailed in **Acts 9** and His encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus
- He goes on to become history's first great missionary
- His writings are 13 of the 27 books that make up the NT – nearly 50%

Following his transformation, what does a man who prosecuted and condemned early Christians look like?

- He is a man of deep and profound conviction
- He is a man committed to the call of God on His life
- And he is a man of prayer

The verses of the first chapter in his letter to the Ephesians give us a glimpse into the prayer life of Paul

- Paul prayed constantly
 - He prayed for the lost
 - He prayed for the churches he established
 - He prayed for the people who had embraced this new way of living for God
 - He even prayed for himself
- And in every case, Paul's prayers were unceasing, specific, and appropriate to the current needs of the people because he walked closely with God

We, too, can know that closeness to God, but in order to do that, we must receive from the Holy Spirit

- And in our passage of Scripture this morning, Paul gives us 2 specific things that are vital for us to know God in a more intimate way

READ – Eph 1:16-20

To fully understand what Paul is saying, we need to take a few minutes to do a quick word study

- What is that?
 - It is when you examine the original meaning of the word
 - And determine that meaning, in part, by its usage as well as the context
- The two words I want us to examine are in verse **17** – wisdom and revelation
 - Wisdom – IOL this word has multiple usages, with very different applications
 - **Ex 31:3** – it is wisdom to skillfully accomplish a task (crafting the Ark of the Covenant)
 - **I Kings 2:6** – David is commissioning Solomon to be shrewd/wise in his decisions
 - **Ezra 7:25** – govern wisely
 - **Eph 1:17** – a Spirit of Wisdom encompasses so much

- A broad wisdom and intelligence
- Physical science and learning
- Comes from a wealth of experiences
- Skillful management of people and affairs
- The knowledge and practice of godly and upright living
- This fullness of wisdom is what Paul says is needed to know God
- Revelation
 - DEF – to reveal something previously unknown; to expose; lay bare that which was hidden
 - And unlike wisdom, this word has one meaning, and it is the same throughout the Bible
 - But there are many synonyms found in the 18 different NT verses
 - Some of them include appearing, revealed, manifested, and enlightened
 - Paul is praying that the church in Ephesus will receive spiritual enlightenment
- Paul's prayer is that they would have a deeper understanding of what God has accomplished for them, to know it in a deeper, more intimate and experiential way.
 - This is what it means to know Him and to live your life with the knowledge of what He has done for you

But wisdom and revelation require something very important from us – the ability to see

- Now, this is not physical vision; it is spiritual vision
- What is that?
 - These are the eyes of our heart
 - The eyes that look not around us but up
 - Eyes that are not feeding information to the brain but to the heart
 - A heart that is pursuing the things of God
 - These spiritual eyes are what convey the things of the spirit to our heart, which the Holy Spirit occupies
 - Let me give you an example of what Paul is praying with regard to spiritual eyes
 - (ILL) There was a man whose CD player died, and he asked a friend to look at it. “I think the needle is broken,” the man told his friend. “CD players don’t have needles,” the man’s friend said, laughing. “They use laser beams to read songs encoded on the disk. The eye on yours is dusty.” He cleaned it, and the problems disappeared.
 - In his prayer for the Ephesians, Paul asked God to enlighten them, to get the dust off their eyes, so they could better understand the message encoded in His Word.
 - I have heard this described as the “AHA” moment when we realize a spiritual truth
 - And this is not because of human intellect
 - It is because of the spiritual revelation given by the Holy Spirit

And this brings us to a critical point within this brief teaching of wisdom and revelation

- It is only by the Holy Spirit (using the Holy Word of God) that one receives true wisdom, revelation, and spiritual knowledge about God.
 - We cannot manufacture this ourselves
 - No amount of intellect, learning, experience, or ability will replace what only the Holy Spirit can do
- When Paul prays on their behalf for *the spirit of wisdom and revelation*, he is not praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit's Presence. They have already received the Holy Spirit as His divine seal.
 - Paul desires for them to receive heavenly wisdom and revelation, which is imparted by the Holy Spirit.
- If that is true, why do so many Christians not have a wise and understanding spirit in things pertaining to and implementing God's Word?
 - The answer lies, in part, in the last phrase of verse 17, namely, "*in the knowledge of Him.*"
 - Christ is true wisdom and true knowledge.
 - Wisdom and revelation come to us only by intimate associations with our Lord.
 - That is why we must always desire to know Him better
- And that can only happen by pursuing His presence in every aspect and every moment of your life
 - That is why "Sunday Only" Christians have so little spiritual vision and insight
 - They cannot understand the things of the spirit because they do not have knowledge of Him
 - Paul prayed for the Ephesians then, and his prayer is for us this morning as well, that they would be spared from frantically searching for what was already theirs
 - IOW trying to achieve the things of the Spirit in their own strength
 - And that they, as well as we would see, that the great God who is our God is the source of all we need and has it ready for us if we are open to receive it.
- The whole point of this passage is that humans cannot know the things of God by their own ingenuity
 - It must be imparted to us by the Holy Spirit
 - I do believe that is something that is readily available to each of us
 - But it takes a submitted, humble, and committed heart desiring the things of God
 - And He is always faithful because He has a plan for your life

Eph 1:18 - *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people...*

- What is the plan of God for your life?
 - It is that which He has called you to be and do
 - What is a calling?
 - This begins with the call to salvation
 - **I Tim 6:12** - *Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

- That call also impacts every part of our daily lives
- Listen to what the Bible says we are called from and called to:
 - Called from labor to rest (**Matt. 11:28**)
 - Called from death to life (**1 John 3:14**)
 - Called from bondage to liberty (**Gal 5:13**)
 - Called out of darkness into light (**1 Pet. 2:9**)
 - Called from conflict to peace (**1 Cor. 7:15**)
 - Called to the fellowship of His Son (**1 Cor. 1:9**)
- Each and every one of these is a result of the moving of the Holy Spirit in our lives

To be called of God means many things

- It is first to salvation
- It is also to serve Him
 - Paul was called to do what He did
 - **Rom 1:1** - *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God*
 - The Old Testament priests were called by God to their special work
 - To be called by God is to be chosen by God for certain purposes.
 - When you become aware of that call and surrender to it, you begin living out God's purpose for your life
 - That is what it means to live your life for God

Wisdom and revelation are given by God through the Holy Spirit into each of our lives

- We need spiritual eyes to recognize His work and to discern in the spiritual world what is going on around us
- And with that wisdom and revelation, we can then operate in the call God has for our lives
- And to live God's purpose is to experience the greatest measure of fulfillment you can possibly know
- Because you are walking every day in an intimacy that gives you wisdom and revelation to live for Him and for the Kingdom