

Series Title: A Closer Look: The Purpose and Power of Prayer

Sermon Title: Week 2: Getting to know You

Date: 01-12-20

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- **Good morning! SECOND week in short series focusing on PRAYER. TWO BIG PRINCIPLES from last week:**
  - **Matthew 6: God know our needs! God knows our circumstances. We can be set free from worry, and in our prayer life SEEK FIRST his kingdom, his righteousness, SEEK HIM FIRST.**
  - **SECOND, 1 John 5:14-15...**
- **1 John 5:14-15** *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.*
- **Principle that there is PRAYER that is in the heart of God to answer. AND WHEN we ask the question, “HOW do we pray according to God’s will, the primary answer is to see how the writers of the NEW TESTAMENT prayed- because their prayers were inspired by the Holy Spirit.**
- **Jesus: Raise up workers (luke 10:2), unity (John 17)**
- **Look at four prayers from the great prayer warrior of the NT, PAUL. Start with one of the primary themes of NT, which is that we would KNOW GOD.**

#### † Getting to know you

- **Last week we looked at part of Jesus’ prayer in John 17. Right at beginning of this prayer, Jesus said..**

**John 17:3** *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

- **GOD WANTS FOR US TO KNOW HIM.**
- **Relationship is core to who we are as people. The way we go about satisfying this desire for relationship can be positive or destructive, but we can’t escape the reality that God created us to exist, to live, in community. DIFFERENT levels of knowing-**
  - **Knowing about the life of a person (celebrity)**
  - **Experiencing life WITH a person (parent, spouse)**
  - **Realm of spiritual... Receiving life FROM a person**
- **This is the KNOWING that God created us for- not just knowing ABOUT- WITH- but that we receive our very life FROM HIM. KNOW Christ as our life**
- **THIS is heart of Paul’s prayer in Ephesians chapter 1.**
- **FIRST 14 verses are all about EVERYTHING GOD HAS DONE to make it possible for us to be in relationship with him- tp KNOW HIM. If you read through these, you’ll see the truth that God chose us as his own, and he did this according to HIS GOOD PLEASURE, so that we might be- in our lives right now- for the PRAISE OF HIS GLORY. As believers, we are God’s possession, marked with a seal, which is His Holy Spirit- the spirit of Christ in us. UNION**
- **With that said, Paul launches into prayer....**

**Paul’s first prayer for the Ephesians: Ephesians 1:15-23**

- **READ from bible**
- **SO, let’s walk through this prayer. FIRST THING we see is reason Paul is praying...**

### ✠ Why do we pray?

**Ephesians 1:15-16** *For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.*

- **What motivated Paul to pray? GRATITUDE. Specifically, gratitude for other believers. For how God was working in their lives, for how they loved.**
- **As we grow in our experience of our union with Christ, the Spirit will stir our heart to pray for other believers, to give thanks for them.**
- **Then, Paul then prays for the most important thing in the life of every believer....**

**Ephesians 1:17** *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

### ✠ The Spirit of wisdom

- **SPIRIT OF WISDOM. This statement has been interpreted two ways**
- **NIV/ESV- “The Spirit” See Paul referring to the work of Holy Spirit. This makes sense because it is through the HS that we know God.**
- **NASB- “a spirit” ... a disposition. While we have already been given the Spirit when we first became a believer, Paul here prays that we would have a posture- disposition- of hearing what God is telling us, of discerning the truth he has given us, so that we may KNOW HIM. RATHER THAN a spirit, or disposition, of self reliance, Paul prays that we would have a disposition of humility and dependence on God. BOTH WORK WITH THE OVERALL POINT...**
- **THINK OF IT.. When we pray for wisdom and revelation, usually thinking about decision need to make... GOD, give me wisdom, reveal to me what I should do in this situation! BUT THE GREATEST END of God’s wisdom, his REVELATION in our lives is that we would KNOW HIM.**
- **LORD, in this situation, REVEAL YOURSELF to us. May we come to know you, your goodness, your presence, MORE.**

### ✠ NEXT- prays that God will op/enlig... Eyes of our heart

**Ephesians 1:18a** *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...*

- **EYES OF OUR HEART....**
- **Paul prays that in ALL OF WHO WE ARE- bottom of our iceberg... we would SEE/KNOW the FULLNESS of who God is.**
- **Paul continues with 3 attributes of God that we would know... Our eyes enlightened that we would know...**

### ✠ To know His HOPE

- **“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, in order that....**

**Ephesians 1:18b** *you may know the hope to which he has called you*

- **That we may KNOW- continuously- that we are people of HOPE. How do you sum up the Hope that is ours in Christ? You can’t! It is throughout scripture! It is throughout history.**
- **In OT Zecharia (9), the prophet says that the people who were prisoners of the PIT are actually prisoners of HOPE, because God is their hope.**
- **IN CHRIST, Hope/Certainty of salvation. Hope of future. HOPE that RIGHT NOW, in midst of fallen world, we have all that we need to prevail, to live lives that give Glory to God.**
- **Paul prays NOT ONLY that we will know God’s HOPE**

## ✠ To know His RICHES

- *Paul's about to make a mindblowing statement. What are the riches of God Paul prays we would come to know? If there is a single antidote to the heresy of the prosperity gospel, it is this...*

**Ephesians 1:18c** *the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...*

- *Don't miss this. First of all, the riches Paul prays we would know is God's inheritance. The word inheritance here refers to something incredibly precious that will be fully received after a time... What could possibly be so precious that God would call it his inheritance? **THE SAINTS. US. YOU ME. THE CHURCH.***
- ***THE PRAYER** here is that our hearts would be enlightened.. that we would know and experience the riches of being a part of the body of Christ.*
- ***LORD!! SHOW ME! OPEN MY EYES** to see the glory, the purpose, of your church.*
- *Paul ends his prayer with an overwhelming request.*

## ✠ To know His POWER

**Ephesians 1:19-20** *and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

- *What power is God talking about? You could describe the power of God in lots of ways...*

*That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,*

- *Paul prays that we would have **RESURRECTION POWER. NEW CREATION power. POWER of CHRIST LIVING IN ME, THROUGH ME...***
- *Power to be set free from sins that so easy entangle*
- *Power to grieve with hope*
- *Power to forgive, even as we have been forgiven*
- *Power to love each other deeply, from our heart. To be kind, patient, to listen, to **LOVE***
- *Power to live lives of rich generosity and overflowing joy, even in the mist of severe trial and extreme poverty*
- *Power to bind the hearts of the brokenhearted*
- *Power to set aside pride, to surrender, and to come before the throne of grace with confidence*
- *Power to do the will of God because we **WANT TO**, serving wholeheartedly, because we are serving the Lord, not men*
  
- ***PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS** stands before us as an incredible promise, and a profound challenge. What would happen if all of us, sincerely, began to pray this prayer, continuously, for ourselves. For our children. For our spouses, friends, **CHURCH.***
  
- *That we would have a spirit of wisdom and revelation*
- *God would open our eyes, change the way we see ourselves, see life, see his presence, **KNOW HIM***
- *That we would know his **HOPE***
- *That we would know the **RICHES** of being a part of his Body, his people*
- *That we would know his power, in the midst of **LIFE AS IT REALLY IS***

- *This is prayer that GOD WANTS TO ANSWER. That we would come to know him.*
- *And as we come to know him, DEEPLY, there will be an inevitable result.*

† God: To know Me is to OBEY Me

- *As we come to know him, we will, inevitably, come to obey him. Our lives will be conformed to his.*

**1 John 2:3** *We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.... JOHN GOES ON TO SAY THAT IT IS WHEN WE obey his word, God's love is truly made complete in him*