



A Different Way to Pray

By Jeff Bedwell on July 13, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Ephesians 1

How do you typically pray for others? We often find ourselves praying for others around a crisis of some type. We pray for healing for the sick, comfort for the hurting, protection for the vulnerable, or perhaps guidance for a big decision. All of these are suitable matters for prayer.

It has been said that "all that matters may be brought before God, but what we bring before God is not always what matters most. All that matters may be brought before God, but we must always bring before God those things that matter most." Paul, in this opening chapter, raises the bar on what prayer can look like. He gives us a model to deepen our own praying for ourselves and for others. Paul prays with a spirit of thanksgiving and prays that God will reveal to these believers what they already have in Christ Jesus.

Paul prays that the Ephesians might grow in their knowledge of God (vs. 17). This is more than just intellectual knowledge. It is a relational knowledge, knowing God personally in deeper, richer and more soul satisfying ways.

Paul prays that they might know the riches that are ours in Christ Jesus (vs. 18). This includes the present spiritual riches we have in being free from sin's condemnation and dominion and all the heavenly riches stored up for us. Too many Christians are living spiritually poor lives because they do not understand the riches that are ours in Christ Jesus as a part of God's family!

Paul's third prayer is for them to know God's power at work in us (vv. 19-23). This is the same power that raised Jesus from the tomb and made possible His ascension and reign. In this prayer, Paul wants the Ephesians and us to know God's resurrection power, the power that saves, sanctifies and sustains us.

In these few verses, Paul shows us that our prayers can be more than just a list of needs. While we can never fully plumb the depths of God's love and grace for us, we need to pray that God would help us understand more and more about who He is and what He has done. We can pray that we will live in light of the reality of what God has done for us!

PRAYER: Father, teach me to pray. I want to go beyond the same old surface level listing of needs and wants. Today I will pray Ephesians 1:15-23 for myself and others.

TOMORROW'S READING: Ephesians 2

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