

EPHESIANS: UNLOCKING THE RICHES OF GOD
BOB KISTEMAKER 4/7/2024

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your **faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints**,¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:¹⁷ 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,¹⁸ 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,¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. ~ **Ephesians 1:15-23 (NKJV)***

The Apostle Paul's Prison Prayers:

- Ephesians 1:15 - 23
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- Philippians 1:3-9
- Colossians 1:9-12

1. Spiritual Enlightenment Only Comes Through The Holy Spirit

*²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ~ **John 14:25 -26 (NKJV)***

*I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ~ **John 16:12 -14 (NKJV)***

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ~ **1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (NKJV)***

2. Spiritual Enlightenment Comes To The Believer's Heart, Not The Head.

*¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; ~ **Ephesians 1:18a (NKJV)***

*Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. ~ **Psalms 119:18 (NKJV)***

*Jesus said... Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ~ **Matthew 13:13 (NKJV)***

THE EYES OF THE HEART MUST BE OPENED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD SO...

1. WE MIGHT KNOW GOD

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. ~ Ephesians 1:17 b

The Believer Must Grow In His Knowledge Of God...

- To know God personally is salvation. **John 17:3**,
- To know Him increasingly is sanctification. **Philippians 3:10**
- To know him perfectly is glorification. **1 Corinthians 13:9-12**

2. WE MIGHT KNOW GOD'S CALLING.

Memory Verse

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling. ~ Ephesians 1:18a (NKJV)

3. WE MAY KNOW GOD'S RICHES

*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 1:18b (NKJV)*

4. WE MIGHT KNOW GOD'S POWER

And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. ~ Ephesians 1:19-23 (NKJV)

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ~ Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

Join us Next Sunday, April 14, as we continue the “**Ephesians: From Death to Life**” teaching series.
Invite your friends and family and join us at 8:30 am 10 am or 11:30 am

- *If you made a first-time decision to follow Jesus today, email www.Inlc.org/becomeafollowerofchrist to receive a free copy of “The Next Step for Your Journey” book, plus other helpful materials.*
- *If you are a first-time guest today, stop by the Connection Center for a free copy of the book, “Unshakable: Standing Strong When Things Go Wrong” after the service.*

NEXT STEPS

Memorize Ephesians 1:18
Become a follower of Jesus
Join a serving Team

