PAUL’S FIRST PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS

Ephesians 1:18&19a 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, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Prayer Introduction

Ephesians 1:15-17 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 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 Eyes of Your Heart

Ephesians 1:18a I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know

“Most people don’t live what they say they believe. Everyone lives what they really believe.”

The Hope to Which He Has Called You

Ephesians 1:18a&b 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,

I Corinthians 2:9&10a However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Riches of His Glorious Inheritance in His Holy People

Ephesians I: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,

Paul calls the Ephesians God’s holy people in Ephesians 1:1 Hebrews 10:10 says, “And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Hebrews 10:14 says, “For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”

It is God’s glorious inheritance **IN** his holy people, not for his holy people.

Zephaniah 3:17(ESV) The Lord you God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

His Incomparably Great Power for Us Who Believe

Ephesians 1:18-21 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened that you may know…his incomparably great power for us who believe. 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, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

John 2:19-22 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” They replied, “It has taken for-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Matthew 27:62-65 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

Colossians 2:13-15 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Ephesians 1:19b-21 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, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoke, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

If the Jewish religious leaders understood that Jesus said He would rise from the dead in three days, I’m sure that Satan and his angels knew it also. And I’m also sure they did everything in their power to stop it, and failed miserably, and some of Satan’s angels apparently were publicly displayed as captives in heaven.

For What Purpose Did He Give Us His Incomparably Great Power

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

In other words, “His incomparably great power” has given us everything we need to overcome every sinful habit, every addiction, even every sinful thought and attitude. Perfection is not possible, victory is.

How Do We Access His Incomparably Great Power

The promises are for God’s holy people who have faith in the Lord Jesus (verse 15). This promise is only for those who have accepted Christ as their Savior.

We have “everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us.” In other words, we have to get to know God through His word.

We have to learn to “Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16). We have to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit and rely on His power, not to live by rules and regulations.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall no longer be your master; because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Things to Remember

There are things God wants those who have been saved by faith to know in their hearts:

The hope of their calling – the incredible future in heaven we have been promised.

The riches of His glorious inheritance **IN** His holy people – the incredible treasure God feels He has in His holy people.

His incredibly great power for us who believe – the power that raised Jesus from the dead in spite of everything Satan could do to stop it.

That power is available to give us everything we need for a godly life.

We access that power by accepting Christ as our Savior, by getting to know God through His Word, and by learning to let the Holy Spirit lead us and empower us.