**Paul’s Prayer for Eyes to See**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

Session 3

*"My prayers don't change God, but I am convinced prayer changes me. Prayer boldly moves me to connect with the creator of the universe for the sole purpose of laying everything at His feet.”*

**Question:** How long can you hold your breath? Maybe a minute or two. This may shock you, but the world record holder was set by Stig Severinsen ho can hold his breath underwater for an amazing 22 minutes! The reality is, however, no matter how long you can hold your breath, you still need oxygen in order to survive. Without oxygen there is no life and without prayer our spiritual life struggles to survive.

*The Spirit of God has made me; the* ***breath*** *of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4*

***Just a thought***: If you were given only the amount of oxygen to breathe proportionate to the amount of time you prayed last week would you be able to survive the day?

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

* Read the Passage on your own
* If you are in a group have someone read the passage out loud.



**Observations - What do I see?**

* What are some key words or phrases that stand out to you in this passage?
* What does Paul commend the believers in Ephesus for in verse 15? Do you see this in your church? How?
* What does Paul pray for the Ephesian believers?

***Helpful Notes for the Pastors*** – Never forget that Paul reminds us that preachers must do more than preach to their audience – they must also *pray* for them. Do you spend time praying for your people?

Paul uses a great expression when he speaks of *the eyes of your heart*. Too many Christian *hearts* have no eyes and too many Christian *eyes* have no heart – God wants both to be combined in us.

**Question:** Paul prays in verse 18 that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you. What does Paul mean by this?

In what ways do you want to see God open the eyes of your people?

Imagine for a moment, putting one foot in small boat and then your other foot in a small boat and then being pushed out into the water. It’s not going to end well. You’re eventually going to do a split and fall in the water. When we try to keep one foot in the world and the other foot in the Word, we become double minded. Our sight and firm foundation are to be on Christ alone. Christ is to be our ultimate goal, model, and motivation for living. The more we personally know Him the more we will be shaped and molded to act like Jesus, think like Jesus, and truly walk like Jesus.

**Question**: How is God’s wisdom greater than the wisdom of the world? How can asking God for His wisdom keep us from becoming double minded?

*Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. Though it cost you all you have, get wisdom. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor. Proverbs 4:7-9*

****

**Talking it over -Group Study:**

Look at verses 19-20 and discuss in your group:

1. What does Paul say God the Father has done that demonstrates just how powerful He really is? Why is this so important for us as followers of Christ to keep in mind?
2. How are you relying on Christ’s power in your life & ministry?



When the Bible uses the word **Power or** **Dunamis**,(where we get the word Dynamite) it never refers to our strength or ability but rather to

His **power** through us. It is His **power** alone that keeps us, while forming our character as we glorify Him.

Often when we try to change for the better, we try to accomplish this through our own power. “Can I ever break this habit?” Or will I ever be able to control my fear?

But God tells us that He will give us His power and wisdom to energize us and transform our thinking and behavior for His glory. God’s power (**DUNAMIS**), not ours is far above any position or power in all of creation.

***Helpful Notes:***

Many Christians do not know this power – or they only know it from a distance. God wants resurrection life to be *real* in the life of the believer. “The very same power which raised Christ is waiting to raise the drunkard from his drunkenness, to raise the thief from his dishonesty, to raise the Pharisee from his self-righteousness, to raise the Sadducee from his unbelief.” (Spurgeon)

Having been raised from the dead, Christ is now the supreme head and authority of the church and ultimately the world. As followers of Christ we can be confident that God has won the final victory and is in control of everything. We don’t need to fear any dictator, nation, death, or Satan himself. (Romans 8:37-39)

How does verses 20-23 help us see that Christ is the ultimate authority in our lives and in the world today?

* Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. The *right hand* is the place of friendship, honor, confidence, and authority.”
* Jesus rules far above any king, ruler or leader.
* God has put all things under his feet and has made Him the supreme Head of the church- which is His body (us). We (the church) are filled with Christ, who is the author and giver of everything, everywhere.
* Paul often uses the head and body as a metaphor for the church to show the churches unity and working as one accord. What does your physical head do? It directs the actions of your body. Our spiritual head, Jesus, directs with His Word, and empowers us through His Spirit. Each member is involved with all the others as they go about doing Christ’s work on earth. This is seen not only in this letter but also in Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Colossians 3:15.



**Interpretation – Ask a Question: What does the passage mean?** What’s the author’s main intent or purpose of the passage?

****

**Application-Putting it Into Practice**

* How does prayer change things?
* What is my attitude in prayer? How can thanksgiving change my prayer life?
* Do you have spiritual vision for your life & ministry?
* How can you help people experience God’s power in their lives?
* Do I exercise wisdom in my daily life? How does this impact the people around me?
* How will having a clear understanding of God’s purpose for me help me fulfill it?
* How can I tell the difference when I am living in God’s power and when I am living in my own strength?

Let me encourage you to find prayers in the Bible and pray them as your own. When we pray the **Word of God**, we are always praying the **will of God** because God’s Word never contradicts His will. We should never hesitate to pray for other believers, so God would give them the Spirit of wisdom in order that they may know God better.



[www.equipministriesinternational.org](http://www.equipministriesinternational.org)