



4/7/26

It doesn't matter how much I study today's passage, there's always more to learn. It's chocked full of truth that just blows my mind. The more I humble myself before the Lord, the more He opens my heart and mind to understand... the less my heart can be deceived. O Lord, please remove all the arrogance from my heart so that I can live in the sweet freedom of knowing how true and wonderful You are! Please bless my brothers and sisters with that same freedom from deception, and that same sweet joy of knowing You.

In Him,
Jonna

Ephesians 1:15-23 ~

Vs. 15-16 ~ "For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers..."

The beginning of removing deception from my heart and replacing it with truth is faith and love. Truly, my faith in the Lord Jesus is only as real as my love for His people, the saints. That in itself is very humbling.

What stops me from loving others as God loves me? Lack of faith in HIS love for me. God is the source of love. I can't fully love unless I realize how fully loved I am. I have a quote from a missionary named Amy Carmichael ~ "If I feel bitterly towards those who condemn me, as it seems to me, unjustly, forgetting that if they knew me as I know myself, they would condemn me much more, then I know nothing of Calvary love." The thing is, God knows EVERYTHING about me... even the things I don't know. He knows ALL the things I think and do without faith, with wrong motives... even the "good" things done for the wrong reasons... and yet He still loves me!!! The condemnation I deserve was placed on Jesus!

So Lord, please grow my faith in You, and I know my love for You and others will flow from that

security I have in You.

I love that Paul said he PRAYED for these saints. He did not think, "Well, they have their ticket to heaven. I can move on to someone else." He knew how fragile our faith can be, how easily we can be deceived. He knew that it is not by MY power that I am able to grow in faith and love, but by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in me. My job is NOT to make myself grow in faith and love. My job IS to bow at the feet of Jesus, humbling myself before Him, recognizing that I am desperately in need of His power at work in me. The Holy Spirit will joyfully work with a heart that is surrendered to Him... and wait for the heart that is still fighting for self. O Lord, please help me to deny myself, take up my cross DAILY, and follow You.

Vs. 17-19a ~ What did Paul pray for these believers? What is the prayer for me? He prayed "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe..."

Whoa! This is a lot. If I just read over it quickly, I will miss so much... and I will open myself up to be deceived. Paul prayed first of all, "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him." He's praying to the FATHER. Jesus does nothing apart from the Father's will. The Holy Spirit does nothing apart from the Father's will. This is a big deal. Sometimes women tell me they have no problem with Jesus, but they have a hard time seeing the love of the Father. I personally have struggled with that! But everything Jesus did for my salvation was in absolute agreement with the Father and absolute submission to His plan.

All glory comes from the Father. All wisdom is from Him. What is this wisdom? James 3:17 tells me that His wisdom "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." That is so beautiful. True wisdom brings peace. It is liberating to grow in this attribute that only comes from the Lord. When does this kind of wisdom sound impossible and maybe not even desirable to me? When my faith is weak and my humility is little.

I NEED the Holy Spirit to REVEAL this knowledge of God to me... this knowledge that comes from the Father. The Greek word for knowledge is "epignosis." It means that it's an up close and personal relationship that continues to deepen so that I can know even more. God WANTS me to know HIM!!! The more I grow in knowing Him, the more I want to know Him. There is NOTHING undesirable about knowing Him.

As I have this beautiful gift of wisdom and knowledge that is sourced from the Lord and not from me in any way, God enlightens the eyes of my heart for a purpose. He enlightens my

hearts SO THAT...

- I can understand the HOPE of His calling. What is this hope, this eager and confident anticipation of His calling? Freedom from sin and all its penalties. Eternal life with Him.
- I can understand the riches of the glorious inheritance I have with Him. 1 Peter 1:4 says my inheritance with the Lord, which by the way comes from the Father, is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." He's keeping my inheritance in heaven while He continues to guard and protect my faith here on earth. My job is to let Him.
- I can understand the IMMEASURABLE greatness of His power toward me because of my... FAITH IN HIM. In 2 Corinthians 12:9, Paul explained HOW I can enjoy God's power toward me. It's by admitting my weakness. It's by not trying to be self reliant. He said, "I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses SO THAT the power of Christ may REST upon me." I miss out on His power at work in me when I arrogantly think I can do it in my own strength. Why would I choose my power when I can have His? I'm a created being. He's the Creator who spoke the world into existence. I choose Him.

Vs. 19b-21 ~ How great is this power that God toward me simply because of my... FAITH in Him?

It's the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

It's the same power that seated Jesus at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly places where He sits on His throne that is above ALL rule, authority, power, dominion, and name for ALL time... FOREVER! That's a lot of power! I can't even comprehend that!!!

Vs. 22-23 ~ Here's the beautiful thing, the thing I benefit from that I don't deserve in any way and could do nothing to earn... The Father put "ALL things under the feet of Jesus" and the Father made Jesus "head over all things TO THE CHURCH." Jesus is the head of the church, the saints, the body of believers, all who have confessed Him as Lord. And what does Jesus do with His church, His body? He fills us with all in all. Ephesians 4:10 says that He is on His throne SO THAT He might fill all things. He is all about relationship with His people!!!

What do I do with this? How does He want me to respond??? Be intentional about knowing Him. He will do the rest. As He does, my worship for Him will grow. How could it not???