

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Prison Letters**  
**Ephesians 1:15-23**

Last time...we were told by the Holy Spirit that we

- are redeemed/ransomed from Satan's slave market thru the blood of Jesus Christ, the very highest price possible!
- are forgiven of ALL our sins
- have from our Father an eternal inheritance in and with Christ
- are sealed with Him, the Holy Spirit, as a "down payment" of that inheritance

This time...v15-23

After all the amazing Good News of v1-14, the Spirit-filled Apostle Paul prays for

- the saints in Ephesus
- the faithful in Christ Jesus \
- the accepted in the beloved \
- the redeemed/forgiven / us!
- all who have trusted Christ /
- the sealed with the Holy Spirit /

2 Tim 3:16a All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God

John 16:13 **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth (v3-14): for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak** (the words of the Father and of the Son Who sent Him)

Rom 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God (speaks the words of the Father and the Son Who sent Him).

Rom 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Thus, this inspired prayer is the Holy Spirit's and the Lord Jesus Christ's prayer for us

Let's understand how, in part, the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ pray for us in accordance with the will of the Father

v15-16 Wherefore...Therefore, given the unchanging truth of v1-14

I also...in one accord with the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ Who are in one accord with the Father

after I heard of your

- faith in the Lord Jesus
  - surrender to and dependence upon Him and His righteousness
  - leaning on Him to save you and redeem you from sin and death
  - whereby you are made dead to sin and alive to God (Hab 2:4)
- love/agape of all the saints
  - John 13:34-35
  - James 2:8

(I also)

- A. cease not to give thanks for you...
    - just as the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ cease not to give thanks to the Father for us (Meditate on that!!! WOW!!!)
  - B. make mention of you in my prayers...
    - just as the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ pray to the Father for us
1. That        \
2. That        /    2 specific prayers Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ for us

v17-18a 1<sup>st</sup> Prayer

That

God

- of our Lord Jesus Christ
- God the Father
- the Father of glory

may give you

- the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him in knowing...for the purpose of knowing Him
- (now that) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened

On Resurrection morning, outside His empty tomb, Jesus told Mary Magdelene as she presumably lunged toward Him once she recognized Him:

John 20:17    **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ is our God

He is Jesus' Father (relationship) and He is our Father (relationship)

Our God and Father is the Giver of every good and perfect gift, one of them being the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we would know Him

The eyes/sight of our understanding/mind about God is enlightened by

- wisdom

Wisdom is knowledge of what is true and right coupled with just judgment as to action

Prov 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

Deut 4:5-6 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.

2 Tim 2:7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

- revelation

Dan 2:19-22 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what *is* in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared (revealed) *him*.

John 14:7 *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*

John 14:9 *he that hath seen me hath seen the Father*

God's greatest revelation of Himself is Jesus Christ

2 Cor 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Luke 10:21-22 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, *I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent (worldly), and hast revealed them unto babes (having the simple faith of a child): even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.*

God the Father, Maker of heaven and earth, the Almighty, all-seeing, all-knowing  
Living God cannot be understood, or perceived, or known by human intellect or worldly wisdom

Understanding, perceiving, and knowing Him is only by His wisdom and revelation

1 Cor 2:11-14 the spirit of wisdom and revelation

The wisdom and revelation of God are received by faith

John 9:1-7 he obeyed by faith

John 9:25b I don't see because of my knowledge/intellect/wisdom!

John 9:32-38

Rom 16:25-26 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery (God's revelation to man), which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

It is the will of the Father, Who desires all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4),  
that we know Him more and more and more

The purpose of the gift of the spirit of wisdom and revelation is that we,  
His children, would know Him, our Father!

Jer 9:23-24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.

2 Peter 3:18

Col 1:9-10

What is our part in knowing God more?

- Faith...believing and not doubting all the Father has said and done
- Study of the Scriptures, the entire counsel of God
- Surrender, being doers of the Word and not hearers only...obedience
- Teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit

v18b-19 2<sup>nd</sup> Prayer

That

ye/we may know  
know what we know  
know that we know

like 1 John 5:13      These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

like 1 John 5:20      And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

what...by what manner, by Whom

A. is the hope of **His calling**

the confident and joyous expectation of His invitation to come

- out of the world into His kingdom
- out of darkness into His glorious light
- out of the power of Satan (death) unto God (Life)

2 Tim 1:9      Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began

the hope/certainty of His glorious appearing

John 14:1-3

Titus 2:13-14      Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1 Thes 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

the hope/knowing Rom 8:28-32

B. (are) the riches of the glory of **His inheritance** in the saints

We are included in the Father's inheritance given to Jesus

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

We are the purchased possession, a love gift from the Father to the Son...  
at what price?!

What value does God the Father and Jesus Christ place on you/me?!  
It is unsearchable!

C. (is) the exceeding greatness (surpassing magnitude) of **His power** toward us who believe, according to the working (energy) of **His mighty power**

the power of the Living God = the resurrection of the dead  
Matt 22:29-32

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth *them*; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

unbelievers will know the power of God:  
resurrection to everlasting contempt  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> death

believers will know the power of God:  
resurrection to everlasting life  
ransomed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> death

By what manner, by Whom can we know

1. hope of the Father's calling?
2. riches of the Father's glory?
3. exceeding greatness of the Father's power toward us?

v20-23 Jesus Christ is the Vessel of the Father's surpassing power toward us and the working (energy) of that mighty power

Jesus Christ is the Vessel of the Gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (Rom 1:16)

Jesus Christ is the Vessel of the preaching of the cross which is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor 1:18)

The power of God is transcendent and immeasurable, far surpassing our thoughts, desires, and knowledge

Yet it is measured and available to us...in Christ

The depth and fulness of God's power is unknowable and inexhaustible

Yet it is accessible to us...in Christ

When did the Father work His mighty power toward us who believe?

When He

1. raised Jesus Christ from the dead

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Heb 2:14b-15 that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Acts 2:22-24

Acts 13:30-39

2. set Jesus Christ at His right hand in heaven (The Seat of power and authority)

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Rom 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

And where is Jesus sitting?

FAR ABOVE...it is not even close, further than from one end of the physical universe to the other end!

- all spiritual jurisdictions of fallen angels
- every name

Phil 2:3-11

How long will Jesus be seated FAR ABOVE?

- as long as this world exists
- throughout the next world...forever and ever

3. put all things under Jesus Christ's feet

Col 2:15 having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Heb 1:1-3

Heb 1:13

quoting Ps 110:1

Heb 2:5-8

but not yet! (but coming like a freight train!)

1 Cor 15:23-28

4. gave Jesus Christ to be the Head of the Church

The revelation of the mystery of the Church, unseen in OT

- Jew and Gentile, bond and free, male and female
- the pillar (witness) and ground (earthly basis) of the Truth (John 14:6, John 17:17)
- a Body (Rom 12, 1 Cor 12)
  - of many parts having One Head directing every part according to His will
  - the completion of Jesus Christ Who completes all – His Body/Bride (Eph 5:22-25, mystery of marriage)

Jesus Christ is my Head

I am to do His will, not mine

Jesus Christ is the Head of this church



## Thoughts

### 1. What is happening right now?

Right now, Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father while the Holy Spirit is right now gathering His Bride/Body

When the Holy Spirit says, "It is finished" if you will,  
When the fulness of the Gentiles be come in (Rom 11:25),  
The Father will tell the Son to rise up and go get His Bride and bring Her home!  
1 Thes 4:16-17 and John 14:1-3 will happen!

No man knows the hour of that, but

- a. Is 11:11-12 has been in play for 75 years
- b. Matt 24:4-8 is in play
  - deception
  - wars and rumors of wars...great weakness of American Empire before great strength
    - Russia with Ukraine
    - Russia and China and Iran with USA?
    - China with Taiwan
    - Israel with Iran (and proxies)
    - NK with SK, Japan
    - West Africa
    - Egypt with Ethiopia
  - race vs race
  - earthquakes
  - famines, pestilences
  - lawlessness
- c. the lukewarm church is here  
NPR website 8/8/23

Russell Moore was one of the top officials in the Southern Baptist Convention.

- When Donald Trump came on the scene, Moore criticized him publicly and found himself ostracized by many other evangelical leaders who embraced the former president.
- Moore also criticized the Southern Baptist Convention's response to a sexual abuse crisis, as well as what he viewed as an increased tolerance for white nationalism within the church.
- Suddenly, in 2021, Moore found himself resigning from his post and on the outside of a denomination that had, up until that point, defined his life.

Now the editor-in-chief of the *Christianity Today* magazine and has written a new book,  
*Losing Our Religion: An Altar Call For Evangelical America*

Describing the essence of the frequent objection to the preaching of the Sermon on the Mount by pastors:

Objector: "Where did you get that?!"

Pastor: "I'm literally quoting Jesus Christ."

Objector: Not "I apologize."

but "Yes, but that doesn't work anymore. That's weak."

And when we get to the point where the teachings of Jesus Himself are seen as subversive to us, then we're in a crisis.

My counsel is "small and local"

(where ministry happens, not large denominations, not large multi-campus-ed mega churches)

I think Jesus agrees!

The Letters to Philadelphia and Laodicea in Rev 3:7-22

2. We know...because God has so said...that the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ are praying the will of our Father for us that:
  1. God the Father would give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him
  2. we would know by Whom
    - a. is the hope of our calling
    - b. are the riches of the glory of His inheritance
    - c. is the exceeding greatness of the Father's power worked toward us in Christ

God...the Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit...desires us to know Him

God...the Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit...desires us to know how much He loves and values us and wants to fellowship with us and how much He wants the very best for us!

Either we do not know, or we forget

As we walk with Jesus, we are prone to wander or stumble, continually falling short of the glory/perfection of God

Because the Holy Spirit indwells us and convicts us to get us back on track, we usually react emotionally to our failures

- we feel worthless
- we feel foolish, holding onto broken chains
- we feel disappointed in ourselves
- we wonder if we will ever get it right

The Spirit of God is not speaking to us by our feelings (flesh) but by our spirit and will bring into our remembrance just how much our Father and our Lord loves us and value us and want to fellowship with us and wants the very best for us

Jesus is sitting FAR ABOVE at the right hand of the Father praying for us

3. Combining

what is happening right now

the will of our Father for us being prayed for by the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ

Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh!

Fear not, little flock! It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom (Luke 12:32)

Hang in there, by letting go of the things of the world and "white-knuckle" holding onto Jesus...Who is holding onto you!!!