

Knowing God More
Study 2 – Ephesians – Living In Christ and the World
Ephesians 1:15-23

Message Mate

- Do you want to know God more? Ephesians 1:15-23 is a passionate and powerful prayer seeking to know God more and experience more of his hope, glory and power.
- In this passage Paul starts by giving thanks for the faith and love of believers in Jesus and assuring them of his prayers. Verse 17 affirms the trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with Paul asking God to give the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Holy Spirit) to the readers/hearers so that they may know God better.
- Ephesians 1:13 shows us that when someone puts their faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in them, while Ephesians 5:18 shows us that we are to keep being filled with the Holy Spirit. This means that according to Ephesians 1:17 the Holy Spirit causes you to know God more, and in turn you will love Him more. As you continue growing in Christ it can cause a positive ongoing cycle of being increasingly filled with the Holy Spirit, knowing God more and loving God.
- The eyes of our heart allow us to see what the Holy Spirit is doing in and around us, and the glory of God shines to enlighten us further. As you see what the Holy Spirit is doing, you may increasingly know God's hope, glory and power. His hope affirms God's call and good plans for your life. As you are increasingly filled with the Holy Spirit, His glory can be increasingly revealed to the world around you, and you can minister in God's incomparably great power.
- God's power in Christ is revealed five ways in v19b to 23: 1) Resurrection power to raise Christ from the dead. 2) The power of Christ's rule and reign at the right hand of God, from where He rules over all spiritual entities now and into eternity (This is particularly significant for those who have experienced evil spiritual encounters such as in Acts 19:15-20 or with the occult or spiritualism today). 3) Christ's power is such that all things are under Him. 4) Christ is head of the Church and all things for the sake of the church. 5) Christ fills all things for the Church, which is His body.
- Christ fills the church with hope, glory and power. For example, in the Old Testament, God filled the temple with his glory (1 Kings 8:10,11). In the New Testament, Christ, as the fulfilment of the temple, was filled with the glory of God (John 13:31). Now the Church, the body of Christ has the fullness of Christ in every way (Ephesians 1:23). God's glory is in the church and available in fullness if we will accept it.
- All the attributes of God's hope, glory and power are available to God's people, the Church as we: "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." (Ephesians 1:17). Do you want to know God more and experience more of his hope, glory and power?

Some Questions to Consider

1. Using Ephesians 1:15,16 as a model, what would you give thanks for in terms of the faith and love of your family, friends or church?
2. Ephesians 1:17 says, “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.” Do you really want to know God more (or better). What would it look like for you to keep asking that God may give you more of the Holy Spirit?
3. Discuss what you understand it means to pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened. Have you seen evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your life and around you?
4. Discuss one or more of the following from Ephesians 1:18, 19a:
Do you know God’s hope to which He has called you?
Do you know the riches of God’s glory in you? What does this look like?
Have you experienced God’s great power available to you?
5. Consider how great God’s power in Christ is based on the five evidences of power found in Ephesians 1:19-23. In particular, focus on what it means to you that Christ is head of the church and we, the body, therefore have access to the fullness of Christ who fills everything in every way.

Pray –

Praise God for the faith and love of your family, friends or church.

Consider the prayer from Sunday morning and either pray it together or highlight a particular area for you to focus your prayers on.

“God, we want to know You more. We know that You love us and You have adopted us as Your children. Lord, we want to know you more and today we have seen that we are to keep asking that You would give us the Holy Spirit so that we may know You more.

Lord, this morning, we ask You for more of the Holy Spirit. We ask for more of the Holy Spirit so that we would know You more and love You more. Come, Holy Spirit come and fill us, Your people and Your church.

Lord, we ask that You would open the eyes of our hearts so that we would see You more. So that we would see what the Holy Spirit is doing in us and around us. Lord, open our natural and spiritual eyes to see more of what You are doing and how we can join in with what You are already doing.

Lord, we ask for more of the hope to which You have called us. Lord we ask for more of Your glory so that we reveal your glory to the world around us. Lord, we ask for more of your power so that we can make a greater difference to the world around us, for Your glory.

Father God, as Your children, who are “in Christ”, we want to know You more. Lord, continue filling us with Your Holy Spirit. This we ask and will keep asking in Jesus name. Amen.”