

Ephesians

Part 5

*For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in
the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,
I have not stopped giving thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers.*

Ephesians 1:15-16

Paul is a true Apostle. You can hear his heart of love for those who have become followers of Jesus and he is a man of prayer. There are those who labor over you. There are people who care enough for you to pray for you. Your walk with Jesus is a day by day encounter with the living God who gave His life for you. He loves you and does not want you to confine your relationship with Him to a service at church. He does not want to be fit into your life or be added to your schedule. He wants to be with you 24/7. As the wise Proverb puts it, "Acknowledge the Lord in all of your ways (Pv. 3:6).

In our busy times we need to carry in us an awareness of the presence of the Lord. In order to do this Paul prays a prayer that you and I need to make a part of our daily life. Let's look at the first part of it. "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation that you may know Him better." Notice the capital "S" in the word Spirit. Paul is praying that we might be filled with the Holy Spirit who is the wisdom and revelation of God the Father. It is so wonderful that God is such a God of relationship. When He gives you understanding of Himself, He comes to you in the presence of His Holy Spirit and makes knowledge of Him an issue of encounter, not an issue of information. Knowledge in the Kingdom of God comes by visitation. You cannot know the Father any other way. You can read the bible or books about Him but unless you encounter Him you do not know Him. You can go to church and hear sermons and teachings about Him but unless you meet Him face to face you will not know Him.

The touch of the Holy Spirit is essential for this relational encounter to happen. God is a Spirit and when He comes to us and when we go to Him, he relates in the realm of the Spirit. Yes, He has come in the physical realm as a man. Jesus was and is the exact representation of the Father (Hebrews 1: 3). He came to this earth to show us the Father (John 14: 7-10). However, many never knew Jesus. The Jewish leaders accused Him of blasphemy when He revealed His glory to them and the crowds wanted Him to be an earthly leader and deliver them out of the hands of the Romans and crucified Him when He wouldn't. They never knew Him.

He is only revealed by the Spirit. Apart from the Holy Spirit there is no revelation, or wisdom. Let's hook into another passage of scripture here. Paul explains this very clearly to the Corinthian church. Go to I Corinthians and read 2: 6-16. Notice carefully how wisdom and revelation come to you. Notice specifically how the passage ends. Do you see how you can walk in the presence of the Lord every day? Do you see how it is possible to have an awareness about the Lord 24/7? In closing, please understand that to have the "mind of Christ" is not speaking of your earthly mind or mentality. The spiritual mind is something totally different and the Father wants you to have the mind of Christ.