

## “Prayer Fueled by Grace”

### *Ephesians 1:1-23*

*“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know Him better.”  
(Ephesians 1:17)*

Ephesians is only one of three letters where Paul does not begin directly with thanksgiving and prayer for believers. Instead Paul reviews the amazing grace of God through Christ in vv.3-14 which fuels his prayer for the church. What does grace fueled prayer look like? If you and I are more mindful of God’s extraordinary grace in our lives, how would that change the way we pray? The most obvious way it would change the way we pray is that our prayers would be God-focused and more thankful for His people.

### **The Grace that Fuels our Prayers (1:3-14)**

*Paul begins this letter with huge thanks to God .For what?*

**1:3** “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has \_\_\_\_\_ us in the \_\_\_\_\_ realms with every \_\_\_\_\_ blessing **IN CHRIST.**”

*What are some of those blessings?*

**1:4** “For He \_\_\_\_\_ us **IN HIM** \_\_\_\_\_ the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.

**1:5** “In \_\_\_\_\_ He predestined us to be \_\_\_\_\_ as His sons through **THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**, in accordance with His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*Why did He do this?*

**1:6** “To the praise of His \_\_\_\_\_ grace, which He Has freely given us **IN THE ONE** He loves.”

**\*Not only is this true for you, it is true for every believer. How should that change the way we think of, and as a result, pray for one another?**

*What other spiritual blessings does Paul thank God for?*

**1:7** “**IN HIM** we have \_\_\_\_\_ through his blood and \_\_\_\_\_ of sins in accordance with the \_\_\_\_\_ of His grace.”

**1:9** “He made known to us the \_\_\_\_\_ of His will according to His good \_\_\_\_\_ which He purposed **IN CHRIST**

**1:11** “**IN HIM** we were also \_\_\_\_\_ having been pre-destined according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.

*Why does He do this?*

**1:12** “in order that we who were the first to hope **IN CHRIST** might be for the praise of His \_\_\_\_\_.”

*One more very important spiritual blessing:*

**1:13** “And you also were included **IN CHRIST** when you heard the Word of truth the gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were \_\_\_\_\_ **IN HIM** with a seal, the promised \_\_\_\_\_.”

*And what does that do for us?*

**1:14** “who is a deposit \_\_\_\_\_ our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – [why?] for the praise of His \_\_\_\_\_.”

### **Praying Fueled by Grace (1:15-23)**

*Now Paul’s ready to pray! How do we know this is what fuels his praying?*

**1:15** “For \_\_\_\_\_ reason, ever since I heard about your \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus and your \_\_\_\_\_ for all the saints

*Because Paul understood that anyone who comes to faith is a work of God’s grace and whenever he hears of anyone growing in that grace what does he do?*

**1:16** “I have not stopped giving \_\_\_\_\_ for you, remembering you in my \_\_\_\_\_.”

**\*Every sign of spiritual growth is cause to thank God. Yet what is it that so often prevents us from thanking God for His people?**

*So what exactly does Paul pray for as a result of being thankful to God for His work of grace in His children?*

**1:17a** “I \_\_\_\_\_ asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ the glorious Father may give you a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*Why?*

**1:17b** “so that you can \_\_\_\_\_ Him \_\_\_\_\_.”

*The Greek text for 1:17 reads “a spirit” whereas numerous translations put “the Spirit”. It is obvious that if we’re to know God better than the Spirit must teach us. [read 1 Cor. 2:6-16]*

**\*The only problem with reading “the Spirit” here might be that it sounds like we’re praying that God would give us His Spirit, which some might mean ‘more’ of His Spirit. How would you argue from within the context of these verses that we already have all the Spirit?**

*So not surprisingly we find Paul praying for spiritual growth – that believers might know God more through the Spirit’s understanding. How does the Spirit do this?*

**1:18** “. . . that the eyes of your \_\_\_\_\_ may be enlightened in order that you may know . . . [three things]

*What three things does Paul pray for us to know so we will know God better?*

**1:18** “. . . you may know the \_\_\_\_\_ to which He has \_\_\_\_\_ you . . . “

“the \_\_\_\_\_ of His glorious \_\_\_\_\_ in the saints

**1:19a** “and His incomparably great \_\_\_\_\_ for those of us who believe.”

*What kind of power?*

**1:19-21** “That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which he exerted **IN CHRIST** whom He raised from the dead and \_\_\_\_\_ Him in the heavenly realms far above all rule and \_\_\_\_\_, power and dominion and every \_\_\_\_\_ that can be given, not only in the \_\_\_\_\_ age but also in the age to \_\_\_\_\_.”

*When God speaks of an example of His power He chose the resurrection. Why do you think He chose that and not other displays of His power like creation, the flood or the exodus?*

**\*If we're to pray for us to know God better why is it so important for us to know,**

**a) more about our hope?** [Rom. 5:2; Col. 3:4; Eph. 5:27]

**b) more about the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints?** [Col. 2:1-10; Rom. 8:12-17]

**c) more of His incomparably great power?**  
[Eph. 2:1-10; John 15:1-8]

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